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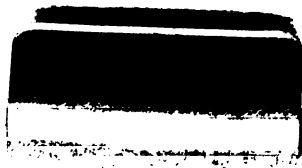
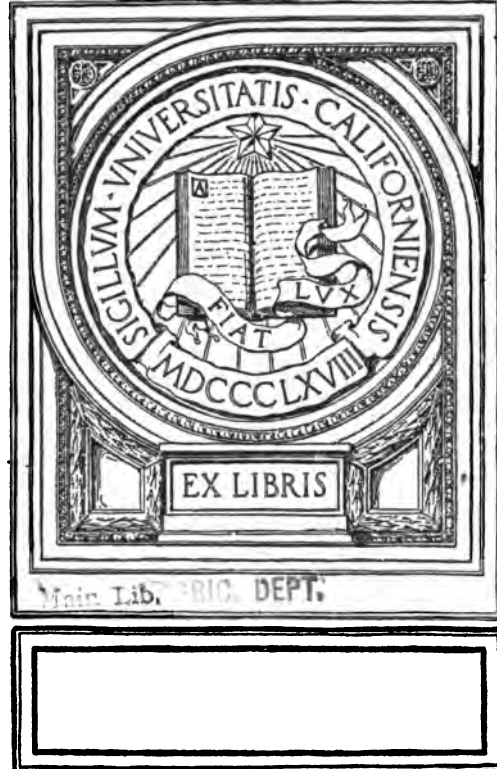
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HOW TO MAKE
THE
GARDEN PAY

Presentation Edition

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How to Make the Garden Pay

By
T. Greiner
T. Greiner

T. Greiner

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Prefatory Remarks

By the Publisher.

A work on gardening, up to the times and fully explaining all modern methods, has long been needed. Several years ago I started the rough outline of a treatise on this subject, but owing to my time being so largely taken up with my varied business interests, I found it impossible to finish it; and to tell the truth I did not feel competent to handle the subject as it deserved. At this stage of the proceedings my friend, Mr. T. Greiner, offered to take a hand, and for a year or more he has been busy writing the following pages, which I take pleasure in presenting to the public as the very best and most practical work ever written for the benefit of the American vegetable gardener.

I am confident it will prove the stepping-stone to successful gardening for many thousands who are now unacquainted with this, the noblest calling on earth; while I know it will give many profitable common-sense ideas to those who are even now high up in the profession.

Yours very truly,

WM. HENRY MAULE.

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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

BY THE AUTHOR.

ARDENING, in the minds of average people, is a dreadful combination in its requirements of skill and unceasing drudgery. Many, especially farmers, doubt their ability to acquire the one without giving more time and thought than they can afford to devote to the garden, and fear the other. Hence home gardening is often at a discount. To disabuse the minds of the masses of this only too common error, to convince people in rural districts, and in the suburbs of cities, that gardening in reality is a very strong combination of pleasure, health and profit, and to point out the ways and means how to relieve the task of all semblance of drudgery—that is one of the aims, and perhaps the chief one, of this volume.

We have no reason to complain of lack of literature on the subject of gardening at present. Every agricultural paper of the day has a Horticultural Department, more or less prominent, and often conducted by good practical men ; and some good monthlies are almost exclusively devoted to horticulture, the only gap existing now being a periodical devoted exclusively to vegetable gardening—a gap which still remains unfilled, less for want of enterprise on the part of publishers than for lack of sufficient support on the part of the masses who have as yet not awakened to the importance of the subject.

Our present rate of progress in the Art of Gardening is a most rapid one. The methods have changed, and are changing every day, decidedly in the direction and with the tendency of cheapening the cost of production, lessening hand labor, and making gardening more profitable and more pleasant. While the gardener thus cannot with safety neglect to grasp the opportunities which the publication of horticultural periodicals offer to him for keeping himself informed about the progress we are making, and the methods employed by the most successful gardeners of the period, on the other hand he needs a guide giving minute instructions in every department, a guide which he can consult in an emergency, and from which he can learn the very latest “cross-cuts” to success ; a guide pointing out how different the task of raising garden stuff is, or might be made,

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from old-time and old-style gardening; how the gardener can elevate himself above the slave-work of former days, and make his labors light and pleasant. Knowledge is power. The former servant of the soil can and should make himself

MASTER OF THE SITUATION.

While in the following pages I shall attempt to teach the whole of the art, in the aspects that have been revealed to me during long years of practice, study and experiment, and propose to conform these instructions with the needs of the new beginner, both in kitchen and market gardening, I am quite certain that even the experienced horticulturist can find new truths and valuable suggestions in it, and it will pay all—novice and expert—to look these pages over carefully. Any one of my readers who thus far has remained in the old ruts, let him turn over a new leaf and try the newer ways that I point out; for gardening, like life, is what you yourself make of it—a paradise of pleasure or a veritable sheol of drudgery. You have the decision in your own hands. You may leisurely accompany your visitors through the well-kept grounds that are beaming with thrifty, sparkling vegetation, as your own countenance is beaming with pleasure and satisfaction, and that is as free from weeds as your face is free from care; or you may crawl through the beds on hands and knees, piling up stacks of weeds, with a face sour and distorted in hatred of yourself and the life you are leading. My instructions, if faithfully followed, will insure you the former conditions, and save you from the curse of the latter.

I am not dealing with flowers in this work; hence shall not attempt to use flowery language. We have to do with plain substantial things, matter-of-fact conditions, and simple truths. In these pages a plain every-day farmer and gardener, not a "Professor of Horticulture," speaks to plain every-day people, and the language used will correspond with the condition of writer and reader, plain, practical, common-sense, without useless flourishes and poetic ornamentation. Let the kind reader look for beauty and poetry *in the garden itself*.

From these explanations I think you will readily understand the aim and the scope of this work; and I only hope it will aid in making gardening more popular, and a more prolific source of pleasure and profit to many.

It still remains to be said that the work was composed on the suggestion of Mr. Wm. Henry Maule, of Philadelphia, who has undertaken its publication, and if the reader receives any benefit from its perusal, he is indebted to him in the first place—more than even to the author.

T. GREINER.


AUTUMN, 1889.

CHAPTER I.

HOME GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR PLEASURE, HEALTH, PROFIT AND MORALITY.

"Man shall not live by bread alone."

OW I pity the people who from choice or necessity are confirmed eaters of hog, and the murderous monotony of whose scrofulous diet is not broken or offset by the gratifying changes which the home garden affords. How I pity the sad-eyed house-wife with the daily questions on her mind "What shall I cook for breakfast, what for dinner, and what for supper?" with nothing but the pork barrel, the flour chest and the potato bin from which to draw material. How I pity the mother whose children are crying for fruit and vegetables, and who is compelled to hand them—worse than a stone—a piece of salt meat. And above all, how I pity the children—the blessed children with their natural craving for the luscious fruits and the crisp vegetables of the garden, ever yearning for them as the deer is for salt, or the famished traveler in the desert for water—but their desire never to be satisfied, unless they steal the articles that their nature urgently demands from the gardens of more fortunate neighbors.

With the opportunities that the vast territory of the States, with its thirty acres of land, six of them arable, to each inhabitant, affords to its people, there is no need of many families depriving themselves of garden privileges, and there is not the slightest excuse for people in the rural districts to do without them.

The physician, the lawyer, the preacher, the book-keeper, the bank clerk—in short all people whose life occupation confines them to study or office for a large part of the day, and who for this reason are in danger of waxing tender and sensitive like hot-house plants—will find the gratification of the greatest need of their lives in a little garden of their own, namely, contact with nature, unadulterated air, relaxation and recreation, pleasure, health and ruggedness, not to speak of the more substantial and more immediate results: freshly-plucked berries (not the stale fruit of the market stands, in the first or more advanced stages of decay—in other words, half-rotten), crisp lettuce and radishes

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(not the wilted stuff of the dealer), peas and beans, with the morning dew still on them, and melons in all their perfection, freshness and lusciousness. With people of this class the question of profit may have little weight; but the home-garden affords a combination of pleasure and health which nobody, and be he a millionaire, can well afford to overlook or ignore. The greatest luxuries of the garden cannot be bought with mere money.

For the hard-working mechanic, on the other hand, who passes so many hours daily in the dust-laden, gas-impregnated atmosphere of the shop, the point of profit enters more largely into this question, with that of recreation in open air, and pleasurable contact with nature still prominent. The garden need only be small, for much manual exercise is not often desirable, although as it comes in a different way from that of the shop, resting the muscles already tired, and giving exercise to those not called in operation by the regular shop work (thus serving to produce the natural balance of the life forces and muscles in the same way as garden work served to establish the equilibrium between the mental and physical functions of the office man), the work of the garden may only come as a pleasant change to the mechanic, and not at all appear tiresome. His good spouse, less occupied with household duties than the farmer's wife, will also find a needed change from indoor life and kitchen routine in the fragrant atmosphere of the home garden, and the manual labor for both should not be feared, for an abundant supply of superior vegetables can be produced on a small piece of ground, if proper tools and methods are used.

With the farmer the question of raising vegetables is chiefly one of profit, although other points are not unimportant. Many farmers who till plenty of good land concentrate all their efforts upon the production of wheat, corn, oats, wool, cattle or other so-called "money crops," and pay little or no attention to the home garden. So we have the astonishing and deplorable fact that a majority of American farmers have no garden worthy to be called a "family garden," unless so named because it is entirely given into the care of the already over-worked farmer's wife and other members of the family, especially of the half-grown boys, if they in true appreciation of the good things to be had in compensation, consent to spend an extra working hour now and then in hoeing and pulling weeds. Outraged nature, unappeased hunger for vegetable food often makes them submit without grumbling to the lesser outrage of imposing an extra amount of work on their young shoulders.

Fried Pork, fried potatoes, poor bread from poorly ground flour, lardy pies, and rich cakes—these, with hardly a variation, are the chief articles of food for thousands of farmer families.

Can you draw health from a pork barrel? No more than you can gather grapes from a thorn bush.

Many a farmer having sown a half acre or so of Black-Eye Marrowfat or Canadian Field peas, from which his family may have an abundant supply of green peas for a whole week, and given them the privilege to help themselves to all the roasting ears they may desire from the corn field (half a mile away) for another whole week, is self-satisfied with his generosity, and boasts that his full duty is done. According to statistics taken in Illinois in 1888, only seventeen per cent. of the farmers had the luxury of a strawberry patch. Think of this. Only one boy in every six knew what it was to pluck the luscious fruit from the vine, and eat to his heart's content! Without the stimulating, cooling and cheering effect of fruit and vegetable diet, what wonder that the blood of so many becomes sluggish and laden with impurities; what wonder the stomach revolts at the excess of grease, and becomes nauseated from want of change; what wonder the race degenerates, dyspepsia, scrofula, and similar afflictions are becoming alarmingly frequent and general, while the concoctors and venders of patent quack medicines are making fortunes! What wonder the sons leave the farm, and rush to the city, and the daughters have no desire to sell themselves into new bondage and deprivations by marrying farmers! Boy nature (and girl nature either) will not long submit to the daily farm routine of

“All work and no play,
All pork and no pay.”

Even the dullest kind of a Jack will remonstrate against and resent this treatment. I have been a boy once, and I have learned the irresistible attraction that luscious strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, plums, pears, nuts, etc., have for young people—and old ones too, for that matter. Nature only claims her rights, and will not be outraged with impunity. I have learned the charms hidden, in crisp lettuce, radishes, green peas, and the like, in spring when the human internal machinery is clogged with a winter's excess of animal food.

There is nothing in this wide world, that with just and fair treatment otherwise will keep the farmer's boys and girls content with rural life, and make them appreciate the great natural advantages of their situation as does a good home garden and a bountiful supply of good fruits, and nothing that will bring the bloom and happy smile on the good wife's face as the assistance she will receive from the same source in solving the problem how to provide the three daily meals to the satisfaction of all.

I have already alluded to the moral side of the question. The half-starved, lean-faced street gamin standing in front of the

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baker's show window, and longingly contemplating the loaves, pies, cakes and other dainties displayed in tempting array before his eyes, is not an uncommon sight, and it has often filled my inmost soul with pity. Imagine the youngster with an intense longing for fruit and vegetables peeking through the picket fence which divides his brute father's possessions from the garden of his neighbor whose fortunate children he can watch as they are gathering strawberries, or pulling crisp radishes in joy and glee. There is the luscious and coveted fruit almost within his reach, and temptingly displayed. Will you wonder if the boy, the first chance he gets to do so unobserved, removes a picket, and crawls into what to him is paradise beyond, and helps himself to what really is his due? If the father refuses to grow these things in his garden, and has "no money to spare for such luxuries," the boy will have no scruples to take surreptitiously what is so temptingly put before him. Average human nature is not built that way, to be strong enough against such odds. You cannot extract purity from glittering temptation, or morality from undue restriction, no more than health from the pork barrel. The man who willfully and needlessly deprives his family of the privileges of a good vegetable garden fails in one of his foremost duties. He cannot possibly be a good husband, nor a good father, *and he certainly is not a good Christian!*

Neither does he deserve to be called a good manager; for the question of profit also enters in this combination. Self-interest is a strong motive power. Here I wish I were able to convince every farmer in this glorious country of the great truth that *an acre of vegetable or fruit garden, properly taken care of, will be the most profitable acre on the farm*, a fact as undeniable as it is important, and one that will bear the most rigid investigation.

The amount of "green stuff" that can be produced on a single acre, well tilled, in a single summer, is simply incredible—wagon loads upon wagon loads; and there need not be a single meal from early spring until winter that is not made more cheerful, more palatable, more wholesome, and altogether more enjoyable by the presence of some good dishes from the garden, not to say anything about the canned tomatoes, peas, berries and the crisp stalks of celery, etc., during the winter months. I and my family live almost exclusively on the product of garden and poultry yard during the entire summer, and we enjoy pretty good health generally. No meat bills to pay, no nausea caused by greasy food, no dyspepsia! Think of sixty meals with big plates of strawberries, and sixty more with raspberries and blackberries! Think of the wholesome dishes of asparagus, of the young onions, radishes, the various salads, the green peas and beans, the pickles and cucumbers, the

Home Gardening—15

tomatoes, squashes, melons, etc. ! And all this practically without expense, at least, without cash outlay. There is plenty of good manure in the barn-yard; horses stand in the stable more or less unused during the gardening season, and the needed labor can also be had in an emergency. At the same time few farmers will have difficulty to sell or trade off the surplus to advantage. The village blacksmith may take part if not all of his pay in good vegetables. The wagon maker, the carpenter, the storekeeper, the physician, the banker—all of them need vegetables, and often are glad to take what good things you have to offer in exchange for money, goods, or services. If the working forces on the farm are insufficient, it will often be advisable to reduce the area of wheat or oats, and grow an acre of garden stuff instead; for the same work devoted to the garden will pay you 500 per cent. profit above that realized from grain culture.

CHAPTER II.

MARKET GARDENING AND TRUCK FARMING.

GARDENING FOR PROFIT ONLY.

"To produce is one thing, to sell another."

MONEY—and money alone—is the object of the market gardener; and the considerations of pleasure, health and morality are necessarily subordinate to that of profit. Business, not pleasure—that is gardening for the man who tries to support himself and family by growing vegetables for market. To be successful it often requires a rare combination of skill and experience, with a thorough understanding of the wants of his available market, and considerable tact, if not shrewdness, in the sale of articles produced. It is no business for the careless, the lazy, or the stupid.

Neither is it a royal road to fortune, and I feel it my duty to dispel the cherished delusions of people who wish to engage in market gardening as an easy and sure way of making a comfortable living. Before me is a letter received some time ago from a "preacher of the gospel," 35 years of age, who having been compelled to resign his position on account of throat affliction, has hit upon the idea of growing garden stuff for market.

"Is it possible," he asks, "to make a living on three acres of ground, 115 miles from Philadelphia? Soil good, and in town, near railroad station. I am happiest when I am hard at work, and oh! I love to work in the soil! This alone gives me renewed vigor, and a degree of health. Yet I am not willing to become a market boy, and I cannot peddle out what I raise off the soil."

Here, evidently, we have met with a wrong conception of market gardening; but it is a somewhat common one. I know of localities where three acres of good ground well-managed would afford quite a respectable living to a small family, with a market right at the door, and grocers in the near town willing to take almost any good garden produce brought them at fair prices. Advantage might often be taken of a local demand for certain productions, as berries, onions, celery, etc., and such articles grown on a larger scale, for sale to retailers, thus avoiding the "peddling" feature. But kid-glove and silk-hat gardening

Market Gardening and Truck Farming—17

will under no consideration fit into successful market gardening or truck farming; "barter and trade" is one of the essentials of the business anywhere, and the grower must be in readiness, if an emergency arises, to take hold and become merchant or peddler. This feature is an indispensable part of the business in most cases.

Gardening for money requires unceasing attention, close and thorough management, considerable hard labor, and often more or less exposure to the vicissitudes and inclemencies of the seasons. Nevertheless it is true that the majority of the profession make altogether too much work of it, especially by neglecting to make use of the newer improved implements of tillage. The hand hoe is yet left to play a by far too prominent part in garden culture, and the advantages of the wheel-hoe are not yet recognized and made use of as they deserve.

There was a time when even the rudest methods combined with hard work insured to the market gardener near large cities a good income. But competition has grown with the demand, and with cheapened and increased production prices have gradually declined until now they are far below what only a few years ago growers would have considered mere cost of production. It is not so many years since the main crop of strawberries sold at 25 cents per quart; and when the price first dropped down to 20 cents, the cry went forth that "Strawberry growing does not pay." Then thousands of growers abandoned the business in disgust. At present, strawberries are grown at 6 and 8 cents per quart in many localities, and people are satisfied with the profits. So with vegetables. We have learned to produce much cheaper than formerly, and we can afford to produce and sell at figures which did not cover first cost ten or twenty years ago, and yet realize a fair profit. Hence people who continue to grow garden crops in the old laborious and unsatisfactory ways, and with old-style implements, who produce inferior vegetables and fruits at old-time cost, cannot successfully meet the competition of their progressive brethren. This is simply a question of the "survival of the fittest;" and the fittest is the man who by taking advantage of the latest labor-saving methods and devices manages to raise the best produce at the smallest cost, thus preserving or even widening the narrow margin of profit which at the present time characterizes all legitimate branches of business. The spade must give way to the plow; the rake, and often cultivator also, to the harrow; hand and fingers in sowing seeds to the drill; the hand hoe to the wheel-hoe, etc. These changes are imperative and unavoidable, if the business is to be made profitable. The grower who has learned to produce most cheaply and can offer the earliest or best articles in his line, is the one who succeeds; and efforts to excel must be made continuously to prevent

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getting left in this race. This requires the exercise of thought, study—in short of brains as well as of muscle. Excellence will have its reward ; but he who neglects a single point, who allows himself to be excelled by others, is not likely to receive a prize.

Special vegetable crops are often grown on a large scale in localities especially adapted to their cultivation, or having special market facilities for such crops. So we have the celery fields of Kalamazoo, Mich., the onion patches of Wethersfield, Conn., and Danvers, Mass., and other places, the cauliflower gardens of Long Island, the tomato fields of New Jersey, the melon patches of Virginia, etc. To produce is often much easier than to sell the product at a profit, and it is not safe to engage in a business of this kind on an extensive scale, or invest much money in it, unless a local demand is assured for the produced articles. Wagon and carloads of good vegetables are yearly thrown away for want of chance to sell them in time at an acceptable price. Where the enterprise is carried on in colonies, however, there is always a local market ; for the centre of production is also the centre of demand.

CHAPTER III.

FARMERS' KITCHEN GARDEN.

SELECTION OF LOCALITY AND ARRANGEMENT OF BEDS.

"Well begun—half done."

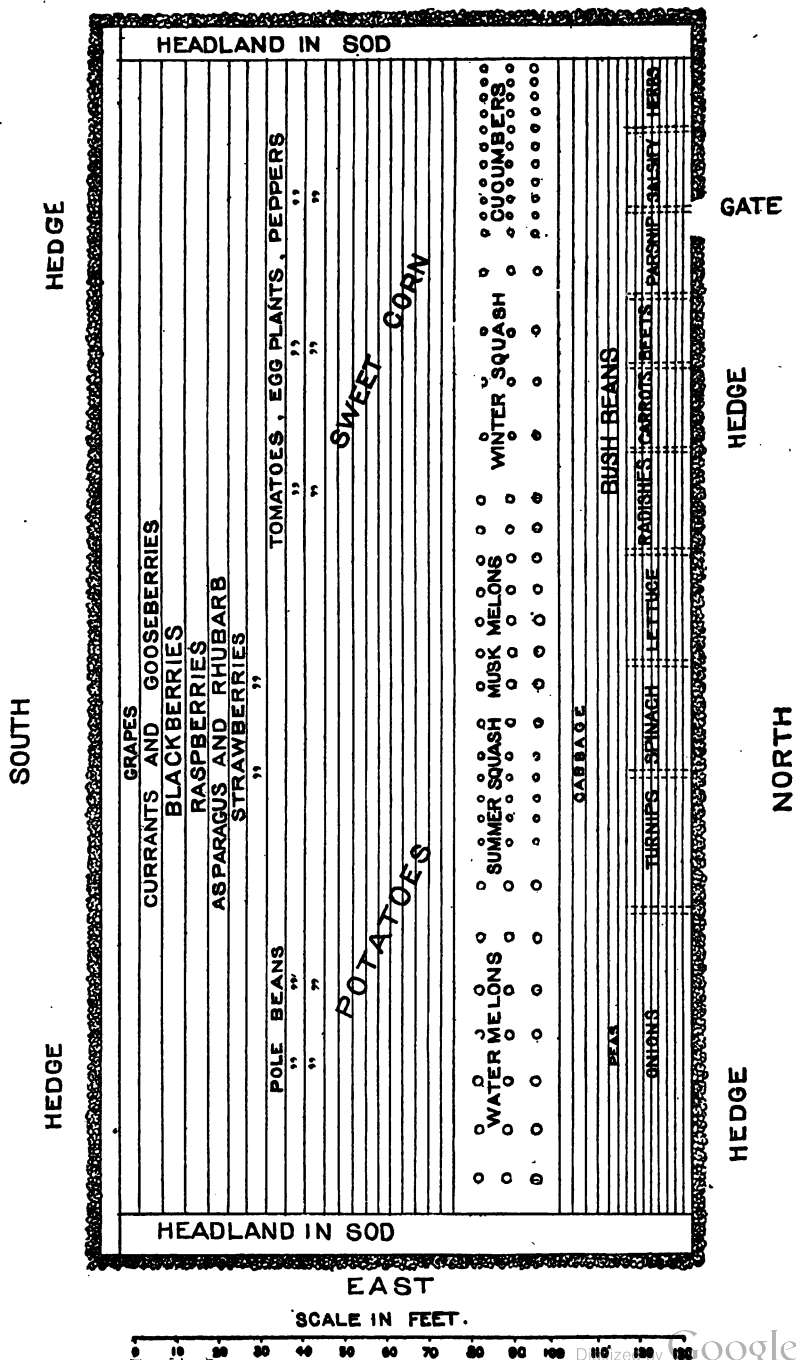


THE home garden in a majority of cases is a fixed affair, and no choice is left as to the selection of site. While the condition of soil, its fertility, convenient lay and proper slope, are questions of no mean import, they are almost always secondary to the point of nearness to the house. The garden may be filled with good things of the season, but if half a mile from the house, compelling the over-worked and hurried house-wife to tramp such a distance every time she wants a supply of vegetables fresh from the garden, the cheering presence of young onions, radishes, lettuce, tomatoes, egg plants, and other vegetables will be missed by the family at many a meal that might have been more palatable and more wholesome by the vegetable addition and by the change otherwise. What good are the choicest things in our possession if we cannot make ready use of them?

The condition of many a home garden seems sufficient excuse for hiding it from sight. The best location for the garden is in a prominent place where it will crowd itself upon constant observation from the house. If well kept, it is one of the greatest ornaments to the premises, and a source of everlasting admiration; if neglected and left to grow up in weeds, it will be a shame to the owner, an ever present accuser—a sort of conscience—loudly calling for attention. A good garden is a sort of summer resort, to which the owner can take his visitors, and show them about with excusable pride; an inducement for an after-dinner or after-supper walk, affording opportunities for a few touches of improvement, for pulling up some stray weeds, or for the destruction of injurious insects, when thus encountered, for watching with pleasurable interest the growth and development of the things that are "new and curious." Nearness to the house means nearness to your thoughts and affections; better care and closer attention; more enjoyable and diversified meals; increased pleasure, health and happiness for the whole family. Nearness to the house also increases the chances for convenient

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WEST



and prompt utilization of house slops, washing suds, etc., in the garden, where they will add to the productiveness of the soil, and may aid in doing away with the stagnant pools, rank sink drains and offensive odors found near the kitchen door of many people, and endangering their health and lives.

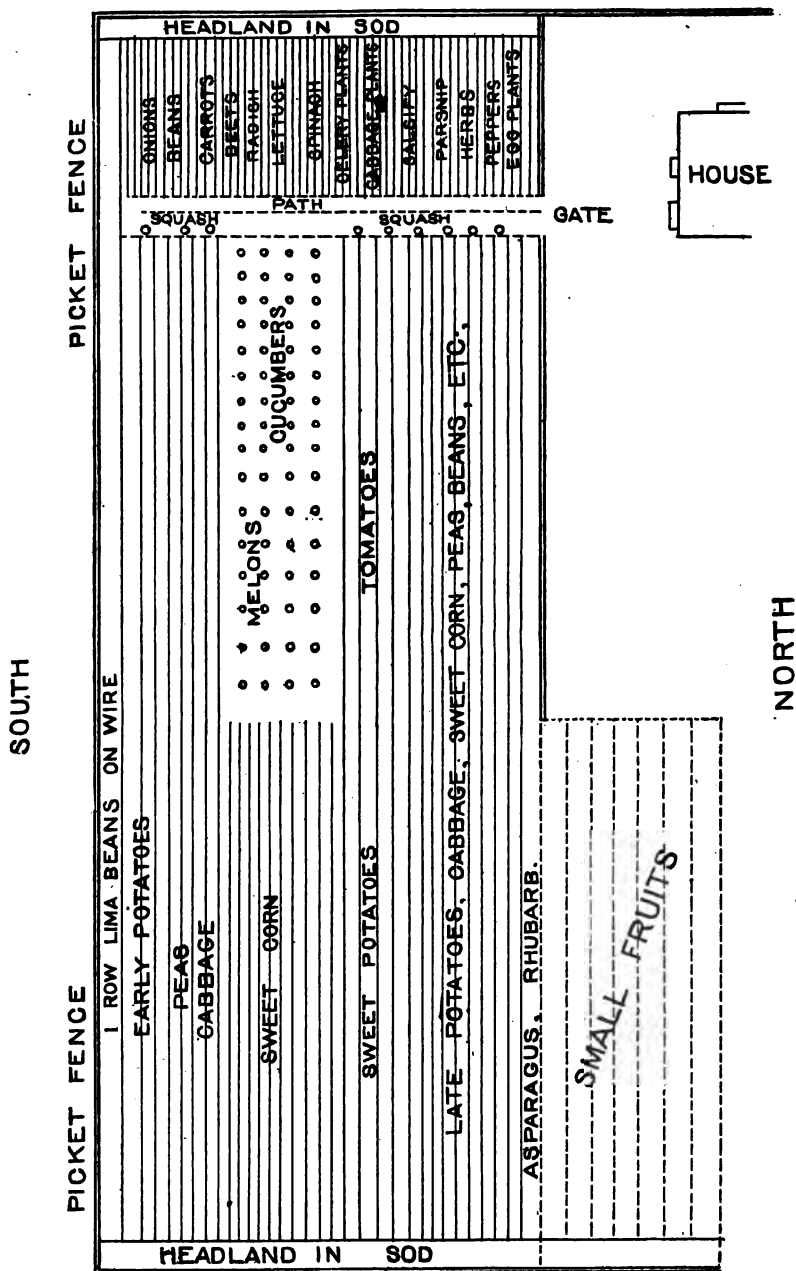
Concerning composition, state of fertility and slope of the ground, there is in many cases little latitude for choice. People have often to take such as they find, and try to make the best of it. A rich, warm sandy loam, naturally drained, should always be given the preference, and if slightly sloping to the south, south-east or east, all the better. If deficient in drainage, thorough drainage must be provided; if too heavy and cold, applications of sand, coal ashes, sandy loam and plenty of stable manure will make it lighter and warmer; if too sandy, the addition of clay will improve it. Peat and other vegetable matter in a state, of decay will often correct either extreme, and good compost will ameliorate any soil, both in point of fertility and mechanical texture. It tends to make clay soil porous and sandy soil retentive.

The old-style gardens, as a rule, are not up to our modern ideas as to size. Having in a measure discarded the use of spade, and particularly that of rake and hand hoe, and substituted horse-power and machinery for hand labor and hand implements, we need room to work in with convenience and pleasure. The farmer has no excuse to stick to his little corner lot. Throw down the old fences, and enclose an acre or even two, in a field long and narrow if possible; then arrange it somewhat as shown on opposite page. The whole field should be free from trees, stumps, boulders and other obstructions, and enclosed by a tight hedge or substantial fence. Neither pigs, hens nor dogs are wanted in a garden.

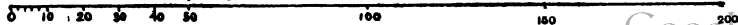
Commencing on one of the long sides we might have a row of grapes, selecting varieties that are known to do well in that locality, and training them to a suitable trellis or over an arbor; next a row of gooseberries and currants; then a row or more each of red and black raspberries and blackberries, and one of asparagus, with a dozen or more rhubarb plants at one end, and next a few rows of strawberries. Now we come to the real (vegetable) garden, and this may be arranged as indicated in diagram, or in any other order according to the fancy or convenience of the gardener. The arrangement of the vegetable garden proper in this fashion gives abundance of opportunity for rotation, and the various vegetables may be shifted about as circumstances demand, and the location of each changed from year to year. The adoption of this plan gives us long rows which are easily and cheaply kept under perfect tillage by horse and cultivator, adjusting width of the latter to suit width of row. The narrow

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HIGHWAY



SCALE IN FEET



rows at north side alone are to be cultivated by hand, using one of the modern wheel-hoes, a work also greatly facilitated by the length and small number of rows, as it is the turning that requires valuable time and effort.

For a number of years I have practised a plan differing from the preceding, and I find it superior in many respects. The fruit patch is entirely separate from the vegetable garden, and will need no description here. The diagram on opposite page shows the arrangement and general plan of garden.

One of its chief advantages is the easy access it affords to all the different kinds of vegetables, especially to the close-planted, and most frequently visited ones, lettuce, onions, radishes, carrots, beets, etc., and its only disadvantage the necessity of turning with horse and cultivator in the field and not at the fence near the highway. This is not a serious matter, however, as a strip eight feet wide is left next the path at the foot of the narrow rows, and including it, without planting except with a single row of squashes or other running vines at the end of the long rows. This arrangement gives every opportunity for turning without damage to growing crops, and the empty space will be occupied by running vines by the time that cultivation by horse power has to cease. Nor is there any want of chance for rotation, and the order of both the small stuff and the crops in the larger section can be changed to suit the requirements of the case from year to year.

When, as it often happens with me, beans, or early cabbages, peppers, egg-plants, etc., are planted in the upper part, in rows two and a-half feet apart, with radishes between each two rows, the cultivator can here be run right through the whole length of the garden after the radishes have all been gathered. At the end of rows, facing the path, short numbered stakes may be driven in the ground; and if these are not over eight inches high, the double wheel-hoe can be run right over them without being interfered with in doing its work properly. When sowing seed or setting plants, the varieties and numbers are carefully noted down, especially in testing new sorts. The opportunity which this affords to compare the behavior of varieties, and to speak of them intelligently, greatly enhances the pleasure of making and taking care of a garden.

Where there is no lack of land, it may be well to make the garden of double size, so that each one-half (divided lengthwise) may be renewed and rendered clean from time to time by seeding to clover and mowing once or twice before it is cropped again with vegetables. Or one-half may be planted to potatoes, corn, or tomatoes, or other field crops, and the two halves used alternately for garden purposes. The great advantage of a thorough system of rotation can hardly be pointed out too often.

CHAPTER IV.

REQUIREMENTS OF SUCCESS IN MARKET GARDENING.

SELECTION OF SOIL AND LOCATION.

"Look before you leap."



WHILE the home gardener must take the circumstances as he finds them, and try to make the most of opportunities ready-made for him, the prospective gardener "for profit only" cannot safely do so. He must select the most favorable conditions, or run the risk of seeing his proud business structure tumble down, and his high anticipations wrecked at the very start. It will not do for him to select a location most favorable to the production of perfect vegetables, if such location has no market for them. Of the two considerations, that of market opportunity stands first. Before locating anywhere with the intent of growing garden vegetables for money, the near markets need the closest study. The difficulty often encountered of putting stuff already produced on a paying market, and to turn it into cash, is the chief cause of failure with many otherwise good gardeners. Vast quantities of choice vegetables are left to spoil every season simply for want of a local demand for them. The great cities, as a rule, are well supplied with the products of the garden by growers near by, and the competition there is large, often ruinous, at least to the extravagant hopes of the shipper; hence the dependence on distant city markets to be reached through the instrumentality of express companies and railroads as carriers, is not often justified except in case of the early southern products, and of such vegetables as tomatoes, onions, sweet potatoes, melons and others that are grown in the farm garden (truck farm) on an extensive scale.

The growers of vegetables for market may be divided into three classes, as follows, viz.:

First.—The southern truck farmer who grows early stuff for northern markets. His location must be selected with especial regard to his railroad connections with the principal city markets, nearness to station, and the conditions favorable to earliness and

Requirements of Success in Market Gardening.—25

perfect development of vegetables, such as rich and warm soil, southern exposure, etc.

Second.—The market gardener near the large cities who raises garden stuff in day-time, and draws his products to the city, and city stable manure back to the farm, during the night, leading a life of unceasing toil, in perpetual fight with competition, but receiving good pay for skillful management.

Third.—The local gardener whose aim it is to fill a comparatively small demand in his immediate neighborhood. Sometimes he gives his goods to grocers in ~~near~~ towns to sell on commission; or sells to them to retail to their customers; or he loads up his wagon and peddles his crops directly to the consumer. He has the advantage of cheap land, cheap help, and few expenses generally, and if he is a good salesman as well as a good gardener, he may do well.

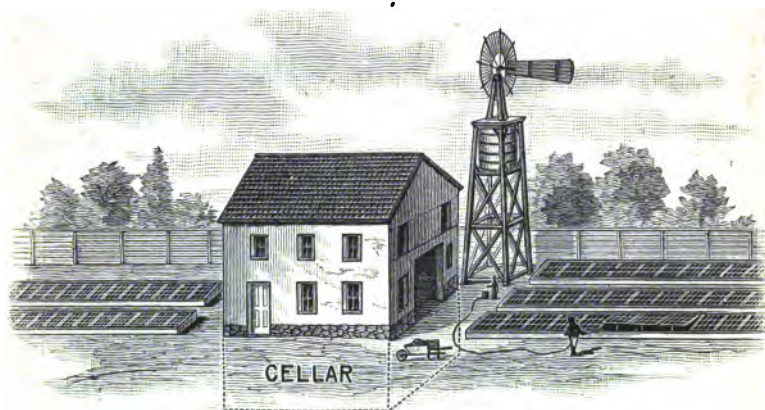
Localities near summer resorts and watering places afford special chances. Many of the gardeners near such places, as for instance along the beach in New Jersey, in the vicinity of Long Branch, have what might be called a "soft snap" so far as marketing is concerned. The demand for choice vegetables here is reasonably large at any time, but reaches enormous proportions when city people have taken up their abode amongst them, and prices often rise to excessive figures just at a time when the season is, naturally most favorable to the production of these articles. The established gardens in these sections have their regular customers, and little trouble in disposing of good produce. The truckers or peddlers who run their vegetable wagons during the bathing season, supplying their regular customers (the cottagers, boarding houses and hotels), make their daily calls at the gardens, and load their wagons, paying high prices for produce for which in turn they charge excessive, often outrageous rates to the wealthy, city-bred consumer. Here money is plenty, easily earned, and easily spent. Some of these people run gardens and truck wagons in combination; they supply the consumer directly, charging for their own produce the high retail price of the truckers; and their profit for two months often keeps them in easy circumstances for the whole year. Others sell both to the regular truckers and to the grocers in the near towns; but there is seldom much difficulty encountered by the good salesman to sell what once is produced. Here, as might be expected, land is high, often \$500 to \$1,000 per acre; but considering the market advantages it is much cheaper at that figure than the \$10 an acre clay lands of Virginia colonies, or the \$30 an acre white sand plains of Central or South Jersey.

As nearness to the house or kitchen (in this case the centre of demand) is one of the first considerations in the location of the home garden, so is nearness to a market with good steady

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demand the chief point of importance for every market gardener. It makes considerable difference whether produce has to be hauled to market, and manure back to the farm, one mile or ten. Often a sudden scarcity of a certain article in the market, caused by delayed shipments, or by other chances, can at once be taken advantage of by the near grower who is enabled to rush the demanded article to market at short notice, and to benefit by the higher prices, while the gardener living at a greater distance cannot do as well. This advantage alone will outweigh even a considerable difference in price or rent of land.

The next consideration, and one of scarcely less importance, is the suitability of the land. The soil should be a warm, sandy loam, level or slightly sloping to the south or south-east, free from obstruction, trees, etc., and in a good state of cultivation.



Vegetable House, Windmill and Hotbeds.

Want of fertility can be remedied in time, and is not as grave a defect as faulty composition of soil would be. Nor should the soil be excessively weedy, although this defect can also be remedied by perseverance and painstaking, and at some expense. Natural drainage is desirable, but if not perfect, should be made so by thorough underdraining. A piece of drained muck-land is generally a valuable addition to the upland property.

Plenty of water is one of the chief needs of the market gardener, and the careful calculator will have an eye on the chance of supply when selecting his location. A running stream, an artesian well, or a pond in close proximity to the beds and buildings, so situated that it can be readily utilized for the various purposes of watering, irrigating, washing vegetables, etc., is likely to be worth hundreds of dollars to the owner. If such a

Requirements of Success in Market Gardening.—27

convenience is not in existence, the next best thing is a good large cistern near the vegetable house. This latter may be a cheaply constructed affair, of any desired or needed size, with frost-proof cellar for storing vegetables, a washing department above, with tank; also a storage room for tools, seeds and other equipments. A good well is a necessary convenience, and will supply water when the cistern fails.

The degree of success in gardening depends largely on the abundance and steadiness of the water supply; for the liquid element is needed in vast quantities, and must be furnished at just the time when the crops require it. Hand sprinklers and force pumps are yet the common means of distributing water over the often large area of the beds in many market gardens, but through the employment of a modern windmill, tanks and rubber hose in their capacities as forcing power, storage room, and carrier, respectively, this originally tedious job can be made comparatively pleasant and inexpensive.

This chapter, in my estimation, would not be complete without an earnest word of warning to the new beginner. I only follow the plain path of duty when I point out the dangers of engaging in this (as in any other) business on a larger scale than experience and available capital will warrant. Profits are easily figured out on paper, and often allure the novice into a feeling of unjustified confidence and security. Debts are contracted, to be paid with the prospective profits; but such profits do not often materialize. It is safe to commence on five acres of good land paid for, and with implements and conveniences also paid for. It is very risky to start in on twenty acres, mortgaged for half their value, and to work with tools obtained on credit. The former plan admits of a gradual increase of the business on a safe foundation, and as increasing experience and means warrant. The latter plan leads the gardener into the meshes of the usurer—the foolish fly into the spider's web—and to ultimate ruin. Step by step you will rise from the foot of the ladder to the height of lasting prosperity; but the pretender who surreptitiously usurps a high position will come to a sudden, and perhaps deserved fall.

CHAPTER V.

HINTS IN MARKETING.

SECRETS OF SUCCESS EXPOSED.

"Doing the right thing at the right time."



HE all-important secret might be told in a few words: "Cater to the demands of the market." Produce just such articles as the market calls for, and offer them for sale at just such times as people want to buy. The more favorable the combination of circumstances of your own selection—market, locality, soil, and methods—the brighter are the chances of success. Start in modestly to fill a want already existing. Try to have your vegetables in the market a few days, or even a few hours sooner than your competitor. Take to market only the choicest, and keep the poorer stuff out of your customer's sight, thus making a reputation for yourself and your wares, and your success will be at once assured and permanent. Study the peculiarities of your market, and try to hit the periodically appearing demands for certain articles. The best at the right time brings the profits.

It is hardly ever advisable to attempt educating people's tastes. Give your customers exactly what they want; and only after having gained a firm footing among them, or gained a reputation for yourself, would it be wise to begin, cautiously, the work of creating a demand for better things by exposing them in tempting display to people's attention. There is a rule of fashion in markets as well as in attire. When a certain kind of vegetable or fruit is popular in a certain market, it will sell quicker and at higher prices than even a better kind with which people are not acquainted. The process of educating people's taste is always an exceedingly slow one; and the gardener should not make the mistake of growing any thing new and superior, but as yet unknown to customers, in the vain hope of gaining an advantage over his competitors, unless the superiority lies in outside attractiveness—large size, fine color, perfect shape, etc.—and thus appeals to the sight. High quality alone, without "catchy" appearance, is at a discount in the open markets.

Uniformity is one of the chief essentials in making produce attractive and salable. Particular pains should be taken to have

all the vegetables in one bunch or package—the radishes, beets, turnips, celery, or whatever they may be—as near like each other as careful selection can make them. Have everything clean and attractive. If the articles to be marketed are of uneven size, grade them with greatest care, and put the larger ones in



Radishes, Properly Graded.



Radishes, Not Graded.

one package, and the smaller ones in another. Careful sorting and packing is just as necessary as skillful growing.

Regularity of supply is still another point of importance. No matter how good and how abundant your produce may be,



Strawberries, Mixed and Graded.

it will not be appreciated by your customers unless you furnish them regularly just what they want, and when they want it. This inspires confidence and reliance upon you, and insures permanent patronage even at higher prices than customers would be willing to give to the man who offers his wares spasmodically, at irregular intervals, or at rare occasions.

It is well worth taking to heart what one of South Jersey's most successful market gardeners says on this subject:

“If you are catering to the appetites of the town's people, and desire to extend your list of vegetables, plant but sparingly

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of such varieties as have not yet come into general use, until the demand for them is created.

"Even to-day there are hundreds of families in every large town, and thousands of farmers upon whose table spinach, kale, cauliflower, salsify, and a long list of other vegetables, both toothsome and healthful, has never appeared. To encourage this trade takes time, patience, and no little outlay in labor and cash.

"It has been, and always will be, that each market has its favorites who can sell more at the same price than other growers. If to dispose of your load to-day, you sacrifice the price you would be sure of to-morrow; if to-morrow you find yourself compelled to make further concessions in order to sell your products, you may be sure the necessity for making concessions will continue from day to day, until the prices of all goods in your line are depressed below the line of profit to yourself and all other gardeners; and you will have lost the esteem and goodwill of your competitors without being better thought of by dealers and customers.

"Retailers like to deal with producers whose word is as good as their bond. They desire to be sure that in every basket, box, or barrel the uniform goodness of the contents reaches clear to the bottom. They like men who, when taking orders to-day for to-morrow, can be depended upon to live up to their engagements; whose vegetables are always washed clean, tied tightly, arranged neatly, and whose call can be counted upon with never-failing certainty every week-day, and under all conditions of weather."

CHAPTER VI.

MANURES FOR THE GARDEN.

I. STABLE MANURE AND HOW TO MANAGE IT.

"Of nothing, nothing comes."



THE market gardener can produce in a single season enormous, almost incredible quantities of vegetables on an acre of ground when systematically and continuously cropped. The quality of most of this produce depends on its succulence and tenderness, and its money value is greatly influenced by its size and earliness, all of which features are the result of rapid, thrifty growth, which in turn, is only made possible by the presence of an abundance of available plant food in the soil, especially of the nitrogenous element, which is the chief promoter of succulent growth, in bulbous root, leaf, and stalk.

The prices which the gardener obtains for his products, compared with those realized by the farmer for grain, hay, potatoes, etc., are such that he can much better afford to use large quantities of manure, and especially pay out money for them, than the farmer with whom it is only too often the query whether he can profitably use *any* kind of manure which he has to buy. There is considerable doubt in my mind that wheat, oats, corn, and products of this sort can be raised at present market rates with profits worth speaking of when manure, whether yard or concentrated, has to be bought at the figures usually paid by the market gardener. The latter, as a rule, finds that the more and the better manure he uses, whether bought or home-made, from stable or factory, the larger will be his profits. Manure, good manure, and plenty of it—that is the corner-stone of successful market gardening.

This assertion is not likely to be disputed. But there are economical or methodical ways of using it, and there are wasteful ones. It is not always easy to determine, in which shape, in what quantities, and to what crops manure can be applied so it will do the most good. The importance of the subject demands our earnest consideration, deep thought and study; but we should look at the question entirely dispassionate, without

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preconceived preferences in favor of one manure, or prejudices against the other. There are gardeners who claim every thing for stable manure, and find no good in "fertilizers;" and there are others who put their whole reliance in the latter. As in most other cases we will find the "golden mean" by far the safest course to pursue.

Stable manure is yet the favorite article with the masses of gardeners. If reasonably free from weed-seeds and properly handled, it is a perfectly safe and reliable fertilizer, and when made from grain-fed animals, as most likely the case in city stables, well worth \$2 to \$2.50 per ton, if it can be drawn without incurring additional expense, or at a time when no other work is pressing. One ton of ordinary mixed fresh farm or stable manure contains about 8 lbs. of nitrogen, 10 lbs. of potash and 4 lbs. of phosphoric acid. At current retail rates for these plant-foods, their chemical value would be about as follows, viz. :

8 lbs. nitrogen at 18 cents,	\$1 44
10 " potash at 5 cents,	50
4 " phosphoric acid at 8 cents,	32
Total,	<hr/> \$2 26

When thoroughly rotted this manure contains a still larger percentage of the plant foods, hence is not only more valuable for that reason but also on account of its readiness for application, and immediate availability. When we further consider the mechanical effect of this manure, the opening and loosening of the soil, allowing air and warmth to enter it more freely—we will not be apt to underrate its value.

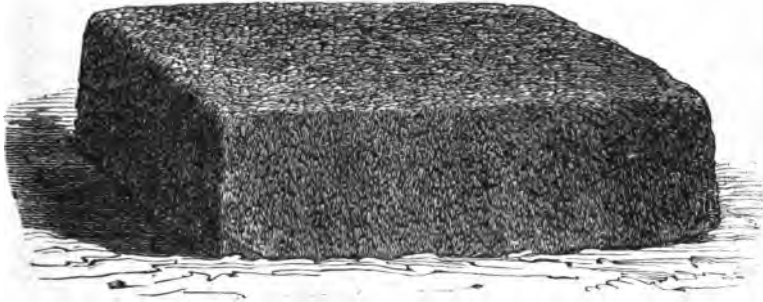
A different thing it would be, if in addition to first cost, we were obliged to incur much extra expense in hauling it a considerable distance; if we were to employ teams, and hire men. I think I would use stable manure in moderate quantities if the aggregate cost amounted to \$2.50, and very sparingly at a higher figure. The manure account is a big item with the rank and file of gardeners near the cities who use from 50 to 100 tons of stable manure to the acre annually. As we shall see later on, the application of even the smaller amount is excessive, and often a sinful and preventable waste.

COMPOSTING MANURE.—Raw manure is not in condition for the market gardener's purposes, except in rare cases. It may do for sweet corn, and comes in play for heating hot-beds, or forcing melons; but for general garden crops it must be composted, and made as fine as possible. There need be no loss of fertilizing materials or elements if the compost heap is properly made as shown in illustration next page. Pile it up in a square heap with perpendicular sides and flat top, four or five feet high, and

Manures for the Garden.—33

as wide and long as may be required. Let it come to a heat, and fork the mass over from time to time until it is in the desired condition. It takes time and labor, adding to the original cost, and in deciding on the price he can afford to pay for raw manure originally, the gardener will have to take this feature in consideration.

These heaps may be made during autumn and early winter right on the arable land, and the material will generally be ready to be spread upon the soil where wanted, when the time for planting it with spring crops has arrived. It is absolutely necessary that these heaps be of considerable depth, not less than four feet, in order to prevent the rain-water from leaching clear through, and washing away valuable food elements.



Composting Stable Manure.

Some farmers and gardeners utilize pig power in composting manure. The raw material is piled into an enclosed yard having a solid clay bottom, and here it is continuously worked over by a drove of pigs in their search for shelled corn which is scattered over the manure once or twice a day. It may make good manure, but I think very lightly of this method of raising pork. The compost heap, while in process of construction, is the most appropriate dumping place for vegetable rubbish of all sorts, the carcasses of animals (larger ones cut in pieces), house and kitchen slops, and other waste materials. Refuse matter of this kind often adds greatly to the value and effectiveness of the compost.

For general garden crops this manure, when in the right condition (well rotted), is applied broadcast and thoroughly mixed all through the soil, generally by plowing under in lap furrow style, and by thorough harrowing.

CHAPTER VII.

MANURES FOR THE GARDEN.

II. COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS—THEIR VALUE AND USE.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."



COMMERCIAL fertilizers are coming more and more in general use with market gardeners, and are now quite extensively substituted for stable manure—and that not without good reason. If we examine a good average high-grade commercial fertilizer, analyzing 5 per cent. available nitrogen, 6 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 8 per cent. potash, we will find that one ton of it contains, besides less valuable ingredients :

100 lbs. nitrogen, at 18 cents,	-	-	-	\$18 00
120 " phosphoric acid, at 8 cents,	-	-	-	9 60
160 " potash, at 5 cents,	-	-	-	8 00
Total, - - - - -				\$35 60

Such a fertilizer probably retails at \$40 or \$42 per ton, and is fully worth it. All this large amount of plant food, and perhaps one-half more, can be drawn in a single load, while it will take ten such loads of stable manure to supply the same amount of nitrogen (and that in a far less available condition), sixteen such loads to supply the same amount of potash, and thirty to supply the same amount of phosphoric acid. In an average, therefore, the substitution of the commercial fertilizer for barnyard manure will save 14-15 of the labor and expense in hauling and in application, besides all the additional trouble and labor of composting.

In a further comparison of the two manures we come to the following results: A moderately liberal application of compost requires 50 tons to the acre. This means the application of 400 lbs. of nitrogen, 500 lbs. of potash, and 200 lbs. of phosphoric acid, at a cost of \$100 to \$125, not taking in consideration the large expense of handling and applying it.

Men most liberal in the use of commercial fertilizers apply, and recommend to use, one ton per acre, at a cost of less than

\$50, expense of handling and application included. Many after having tried a one-half ton application find fault if the results do not give as good a showing as a \$150 application of compost. This is not common sense.

Soils that have been utilized for the production of garden crops for many years, and are yet filled with humus from previous applications of compost, usually contain considerable potash and phosphoric acid, which elements of plant food, in these heavy dressings of yard manure, are always applied greatly in excess of the needs of crops, and permitted to accumulate in the soil. The nitrogen alone, however, is taken up by the plants, or leached out of the soil as fast as rendered available. When we consider that nitrogen is the chief generator of stalk and leaf, and promoter of rapid and succulent growth, and that the conversion of unavailable forms of nitrogen into available nitrates (the so-called nitrification) is exceedingly slow in the early (cooler) part of spring, we have the explanation of the effectiveness of a manure application holding 400 lbs. of the most important substance of plant nutriment, and of the often comparatively meagre results obtained from a dressing of fertilizer having only one-quarter or less of that quantity of nitrogen. Bone meal, although rich in phosphoric acid, which is not superabundant in stable manure, and therefore frequently used in alternation with the former, generally with excellent results, has the same scanty supply of nitrogen as the high-grade complete fertilizers. This nitrogen in commercial fertilizers, however, is generally in a more readily available form than that in yard manure; and, all points taken in consideration, a rotation of the several manures should be adopted as it has proved far preferable to the exclusive or continued use of one or the other of them alone. The heavy tax that the demands of the crops impose upon the gardener can often be materially lightened in this way.

Some of our best gardeners go much further. They use what stable manure is made on the place, and put all the money to be expended for manures in complete commercial fertilizers, and nitrates (spoken of in next chapter). I have grown excellent vegetables of all kinds on poor soil by this system of feeding the crops; but I miss the quickening and loosening effect upon the soil which is found in an occasional ration of compost. Hence I prefer the rotation system of manuring, and if for some reason it should become necessary or unavoidable to use commercial fertilizers uninterruptedly, I would at least grow and plow under an occasional green crop, such as clover, black peas or southern cow beans, peas, weeds, etc., merely for the purpose of adding decaying vegetable matter to the soil, and thus opening it to the ingress of air and moisture. Its state of concentration fits the commercial fertilizer especially for application to growing crops,

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or to second and succeeding crops planted between rows of vegetables still standing.

This question has still another aspect. Market gardeners obtain the bulk of their manure supply from city stables, and the demand for the article has raised its price to a figure forcing the shrewd gardener to consider whether he can afford to use the article or not. Here we have a case where supply is not influenced by demand. Nearly the same quantity of manure would be produced in cities whether it is disposed of at \$2.00, or at 10 cents a load, or whether the owner were compelled to pay some one \$1.00 a load to take it off the premises. The competition of buyers makes the article too high-priced for their own welfare. Use more fertilizers, and less manure from the city stables, and let the decreased demand force down the excessive prices.

Even distribution over the area to be enriched is the chief point of importance in the application of all concentrated manures. This can be attained in no easier and more perfect way than by the use of a good fertilizer drill, such as for instance is attached to the Empire grain drill. The box holds about one bag (200 lbs.) of fertilizer. Place the bags at convenient distances, scatteringly, over the area to be fertilized, fill the receptacle of the drill, and commence operations, refilling as needed. In heavy applications it may be necessary to go over the area repeatedly, and preferably in different directions, either crosswise or diagonally across the preceding application. If such a drill is not at hand, as very likely the case with the market gardener, the stuff may be sown after plowing, and a thorough harrowing be given afterwards. In sowing a ton to an acre, which is a pretty heavy application, the operator will have to make close bouts, scatter with full hand, and then probably be compelled to repeat the operation crosswise of the first sowing, in order to put on the full quantity.

For convenience in sowing by hand it is always advisable to moisten the fertilizer before it is applied. Empty a bagful on a tight barn floor, or in a tight wagon box, spread the fertilizer out in an even layer, then sprinkle water over it; next put on another layer of fertilizer, apply water as before, and finally shovel the whole mass over until it is thoroughly mixed, and uniformly damp. It can then be sowed without filling the air around the party whose hands scatter it, with the disagreeable dust.


There is no reason to fear ill results from "too much" fertilizer, provided it is evenly distributed or thoroughly mixed through the soil. Stinginess in this item is poor economy.

CHAPTER VIII.

MANURES FOR THE GARDEN.

III. NITRATES, WOOD ASHES, AND OTHER SPECIFIC FERTILIZERS.

“Cheapest is what serves its purpose best.”

O other single manurial element gives to the progressive gardener the opportunities and possibilities that he finds in nitrates, especially in the form of nitrate of soda or Chili saltpeter, vast natural deposits of which exist in various districts of South America. The effect of this salt on many garden crops is often truly wonderful, and can generally be observed within a few days after its application in the darker foliage and remarkably thrifty growth. It is readily soluble, and its nitrogen in the exact form best suited for immediate absorption by the roots of plants.

The body of gardeners move but slowly, and adopt new things and means reluctantly. So while the merits and possibilities of nitrate of soda have often been pointed out in the columns of the agricultural press, the great public, fortunately for the progressive few, knows nothing about it, a circumstance which gives it into the hands of the shrewd manager to excel his slower competitor with ease, and to beat him in every market. The gardener who refuses to use nitrate of soda especially for his early crops, neglects to take advantage of one of his very best opportunities.

We must bear in mind that the natural process of converting unavailable nitrogenous matter into soluble nitrates is very slow in early spring; that, in order to furnish as much as early crops require at this time, we were compelled to apply the enormous quantities of stable compost with its excess of mineral elements of plant food; and that the deficiency cannot be supplied by the so-called complete concentrated fertilizers containing only 100 lbs. of nitrogen to the ton, except when applied in large quantities. In nitrates we have just the element of plant-food needed, and by applying it in small quantities about as fast as the plants can utilize it, we have it in our power to stimulate a thrifty

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growth of foliage at comparatively slight expense, and at a time when the product will bring the most money in market.

Nitrate of soda contains about 16 or 17 per cent. of nitrogen, but this in a most soluble form, so that it would not be safe to use it in large quantities at a time, for what is not at once converted into plant structure, will gradually sink through the soil as it would through a sieve, and be lost. The most economical and most satisfactory method is the application of not over 100 lbs. to 150 lbs. per acre repeated at intervals of about two weeks. If lumpy, it should be pounded fine before applying it. Scatter it over the ground when the foliage of plants is perfectly dry, as it is apt to scorch the leaves otherwise, or still better, apply just before or during a rain, when it will be dissolved and carried into the soil at once. Sprinkling over the land in solution is a safe but generally less convenient mode of application. It costs from \$50 to \$60 per ton, and can be obtained from the large fertilizer manufacturers.

Sulphate of ammonia, a by-product of gas works, contains about 20 per cent. of nitrogen; but this is in a more stable form, as it has to undergo the transformation into nitrate before being readily available. Its effect is naturally slower, but more lasting, and it can be applied in larger quantities, or in single applications, without fear of loss. It may take the place of nitrate of soda during the warmer part of the season with gratifying results, and in combination with that salt at any time, the latter for immediate effect, the former as a more gradual source of supply.

The price of sulphate of ammonia is a trifle higher than that of nitrate of soda. Undoubtedly we have in these two salts the cheapest forms of available nitrogen, and ready means to produce immediate and often astonishing results. I cannot refrain from repeating the statement, that the gardener who scorns the use of these nitrogen compounds will have a hard stand against the competition of growers who put on the market the crisp, succulent and early vegetables that can be so easily produced in all their perfection by the judicious application of nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia.

Hen manure might have been mentioned in the chapter on stable compost. It is especially rich in nitrogen. A ton when fresh contains more than twice, and a ton of the dry article more than four times the quantity of nitrogen contained in a ton of common stable manure. This will give an idea of its value for the garden. I always compost it with loam, muck, coal ashes, leaves, etc., apply after plowing (broadcast) and stir it into the surface soil by means of harrow, cultivator and rake. My neighbors sometimes ask me what new variety of spinach, parsley, etc., I have in my family garden, and request me to procure some seed of it for them. Yet the "new" and wonderfully thrifty vegetable

most likely is none other than one of the standard sorts they have in their own garden, the only difference being that my ground was manured with one ton per acre of high-grade complete fertilizer, and a good top dressing of composted hen manure, with frequent but very light applications of nitrate of soda, while my neighbors grounds were fed with extravagant quantities of stable compost. The same method of feeding crops has always enabled me to grow celery and other plants, and celery for the table also, in great perfection.

In cotton-seed meal we have another nitrogenous manure of special value for the market gardener, but as yet very little appreciated or used. A ton contains about 140 lbs. of nitrogen, 60 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and 40 lbs. of potash, and is worth fully \$35.00 as manure. When mixed and composted with stable manure it increases the comparative amount of nitro-



Spinach Fed with Nitrates, etc., and as Usually Grown.

gen of the latter, and therefore its effectiveness. Gardeners who keep stock should feed cotton-seed meal to the fullest extent that it is safe to do. It then gives double returns, namely, in increase of flesh, and improvement of manure. Where nitrate of soda, on account of distance from source of supply and consequent high cost, cannot be used advantageously, cotton-seed meal can often be had at a comparatively low price, and should then be used in place of the nitrogen compounds.

Potash in any special form is hardly ever needed for the crops on common garden land, since stable compost and the average high-grade complete fertilizer supply an abundance, and often an excess of it, to the crops already. A different thing it is with peaty and mucky soils. These have already an abundance of the nitrogenous element, although mostly in fixed combinations, and hence in an unavailable form. On the other hand, the mineral elements are scantily supplied. Stable manure would add a comparatively large amount of nitrogen at great expense to the already vast store, and but small quantities of phosphoric acid and potash. Such lands, for that reason, can be

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made productive in the cheapest and quickest way by applications of phosphoric acid and potash, in the form of a plain superphosphate, or bone meal, in combination with wood ashes. The alkaline nature of the latter neutralizes injurious acids, and helps to make nitrogen available. Unleached wood ashes can be applied at the rate of 100 bushels and more per acre with perfect safety, and leached ashes in much larger quantities. As means of protecting crops against the ill effects of a prolonged drought, however, wood ashes have no mean value on any soil. I will refer to this subject in a future chapter.

The question is often referred to me: "Will it pay a renter to apply manures on land that he will or may have to vacate the next season?" This can have but one answer. It stands between the use of manure and the unsatisfactory outcome of the business. No manure—no paying crop. But in case of pending removal, it will always be safest to use the quick-acting commercial fertilizers, and nitrate of soda in preference to the slower and more lasting stable manure. The nitrate of soda is all and entirely utilized for the next crop, or leached out of the soil, and of the commercial fertilizer only an inconsiderable part will be left to increase the successor's crops, if the soil is as thoroughly cropped all through the season as it should be. Stable manure is apt to donate only a part of its plant-foods for the production of the same year's crops, and much of the expensive material would probably be left for the benefit of the renter's successor.

CHAPTER IX. .

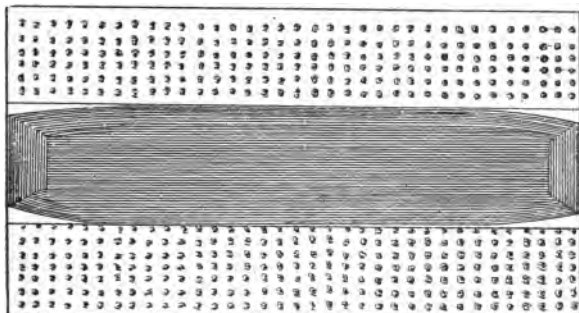
GARDEN IMPLEMENTS

AND HOW TO USE THEM.

“Only the best is good enough.”



It is not many years since the spade was considered the first requisite in the garden. Now we know that a good two-horse plow does the work of turning the soil not only much faster, and with less labor to man than spade or spading fork, but much better at the same time. Good plows are now on sale at every hardware store, and used by all intelligent farmers. In fact there are more good plows than good plowers; for simple as the operation seems to be, but few people know how to do it to best advantage. Straight lines and even furrows require much less work than crooked lines and irregular furrows. There is a knack about this natural to some people, but not easily acquired by the average “hired man,” and the gardener, if he desires to have the work done well, must do it himself or



Sample of Faulty Plowing.

instruct his men how to do it. Suppose we have a strip of land to plow of shape as here shown, and situated between strips of standing crops. Even a poor plowman will find little difficulty of striking out the furrow in centre, and to go on all right for awhile; but as the plowing progresses, and the team naturally

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crowds towards the plowed ground when nearing the end of long furrows on each side, the corners become rounded, and when the piece is all plowed clear to the sides, the four corners will still be left untouched, and must be finished with an immoderate amount of turning, and at last will be poorly done, or left partly unfinished. A good plowman will strike his last furrow exactly on the very edge of the piece.

The market gardener also needs a good, light one-horse plow, to plow up smaller patches for second and third crops, in cultivating and hilling-up celery, and for various other uses. Every hardware dealer keeps them.

Subsoiling is not absolutely necessary for warm loam with porous subsoil, but generally of considerable benefit for soils

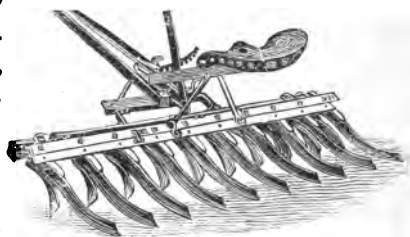


Cutaway Harrow.

resting on a heavier and compact lower stratum. Such a plow following in the furrow made by the common plow, is intended to lift and break the layer next under the top soil. It is not often used in the home garden. Among modern harrows we have some most

excellent tools designed and suited for special purposes. The "Cutaway" is a deep cutting implement, and in many cases can almost take the place of the plow, but it is hardly necessary for the

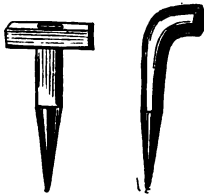
market gardener. The "Disk" is another good farmer's harrow, and doing thorough work, especially on freshly-turned, tough sod; but an "Acme" will answer as well as any other for breaking up and fining the mellow lands in the garden. In an emergency almost any of the older-style,



Acme Harrow.

plain steel-tooth harrows may be used. The "Thomas' Smoothing" harrow, however, is so useful and effective in finishing off a piece of land for sowing seeds, in killing weeds in corn and potato fields early in the season, that neither farmer nor gardener can well afford to do without it. The diligent use of this implement will bring the soil in fine tilth, and often leave it in moderately good shape for sowing or planting, but it will always be advisable to apply the finishing touch with a Meeker Disk harrow, which does as good work as a steel-rake, and much faster and more conveniently. We also need a good spade; a spading fork; sharp, light hoes; dibbers, etc. The latter are simply pieces of hardwood, with an iron

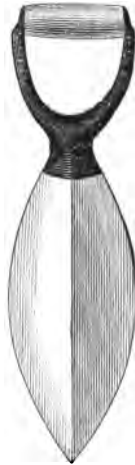
point and a convenient handle. The new style of dibber, here illustrated, consisting of a flat steel blade with handle, is a great improvement on the old tool, and I hope will soon be put on sale



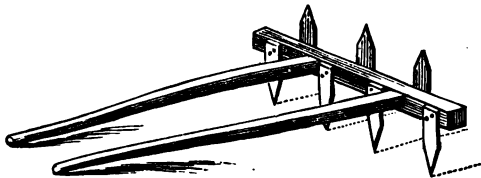
Old-style Dibbers.

generally. The home gardener, who generally sows seeds by hand, needs a marker, which may be a cheap, home-made affair, constructed from a piece of scantling 4 by 4, with three or four sharpened strips of inch board securely nailed on in front, or mortised in, so that the pointed

ends are 15 or 16 inches apart. Two poles are adjusted for handles. The marker may be made reversible, with another set of teeth, but only 12 inches apart, pointing in the opposite direction. The market gardener will also need a tool of this kind for marking the rows where he wishes to plant onion sets, or to set lettuce plants, etc. The distance between the teeth must be regulated according to his purpose. Markers as found in general use are here illustrated. Indispensable in the market garden, and still more so in the farm garden, and convenient to have even



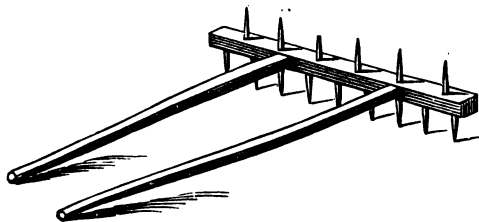
New-style Dibber.



Marker for Home Garden.

in the home garden, is a good seed drill. The leading implements now in use are Matthews' and Planet Jr. garden drills. The latter is shown in illustration on next page.

For accuracy and regularity of depositing the seed, and ease and rapidity of operation, the Planet Jr. has hardly a peer. It affords a safe, easy, and perfect method of sowing smaller seeds over large or small areas. The intelligent farmer who has learned to appreciate the mangels, and carrots and other root crops as winter food for cattle, sheep, hogs and horses, and makes it a practice to plant largely of them every

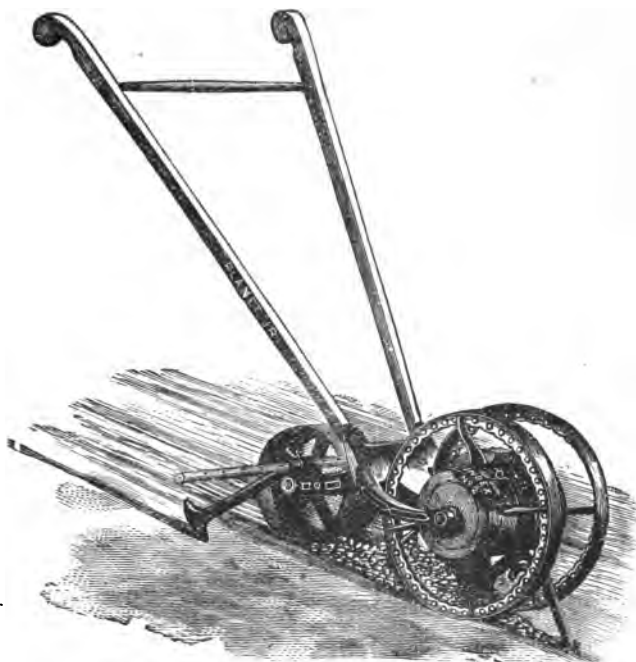


Marker for the Market Garden.

year, is not unacquainted with the merits of the garden drills, and often would not consider his assortment of implements complete without a good garden seed sower.

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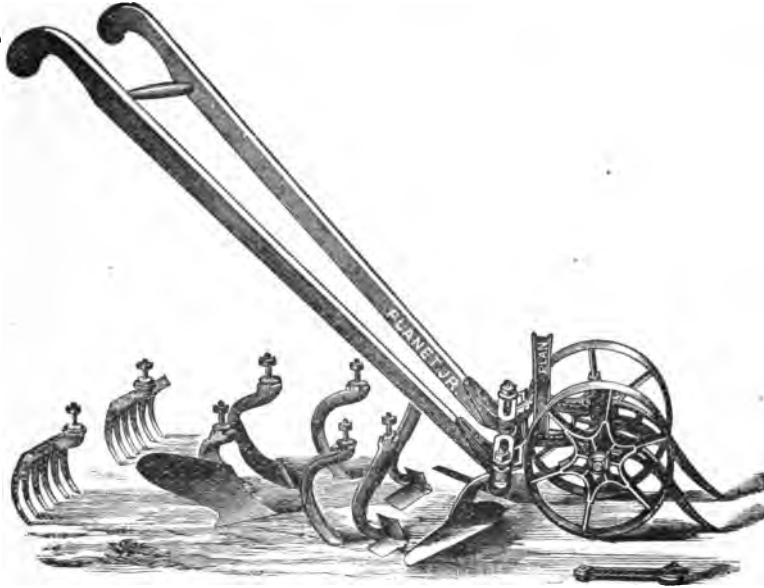
But the tool of all tools, the modern weed-slayer, the great labor-saver, the greatest horticultural blessing of the age—that is the modern wheel-hoe. This above all others frees the gardener from undesirable work, cuts down the labor account one-half, and makes tillage, both in the home and market garden, light and pleasant. It is quite a number of years ago when it was first introduced, but fortunately for the progressive gardener for money, the slow moving majority has not yet recognized its value. The advantages connected with the possession of one of these tools cannot be over-stated, nor emphasized too strongly,



Planet Jr. Garden Drill.

nor told too frequently. Without the wheel-hoe's help the gardener of to-day cannot hope to hold out against his progressive competitors. It is the tool that more than anything else has cheapened the cost of production in garden stuff. The most perfect implement of this kind, at present, is the "Planet Jr. Double Wheel-Hoe," illustrated in next Fig., a cultivator, rake and plow combined, in fact an all purpose tool of tillage, and good to whatever use you put it. It can be made to hoe both sides of one row, or between rows, in level culture and in throwing the soil either to or from the row. This tool banishes the old hand hoe from the garden to a certain extent, and reduces

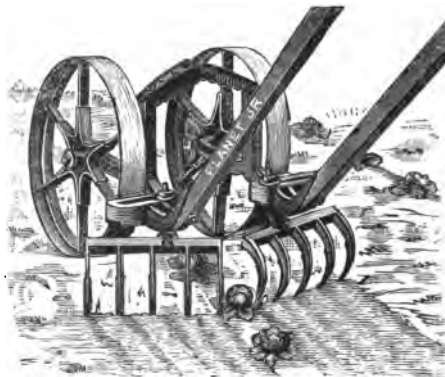
the unpleasant task of weeding to a minimum. Let no gardener suppose that he can safely get along without a wheel-hoe. In the home garden this implement makes a pleasure of what



Planet Jr. Double Wheel Hoe.

otherwise is a job dreaded by all. Now the half-grown boy runs the wheel-hoe up and down the rows of vegetables "for fun" and recreation, and accomplishes in one-half hour what a man with a hand hoe could not perform in a whole day.

As a separate attachment to this we have the Onion Set Harvester, illustrated on next page. As its name indicates it is used in harvesting onion sets, also in cutting spinach for market. Similar cheaper tools have also been put on the market, such as the Planet Jr. Single Wheel-Hoe, Gem of the Garden Cultivator, Gregory's Finger Weeder, and others. They all answer their purpose very well, but the Planet Jr. Double Wheel-Hoe stands at the head, and I advise you to use no other. People who garden



Planet Jr. Cultivating with Rakes.

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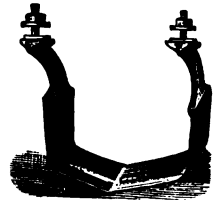
on a modest scale are often tempted to purchase a combination tool—drill and cultivator combined, such as Planet Jr. Combined Drill and Wheel-Hoe, seen at work hoeing both sides



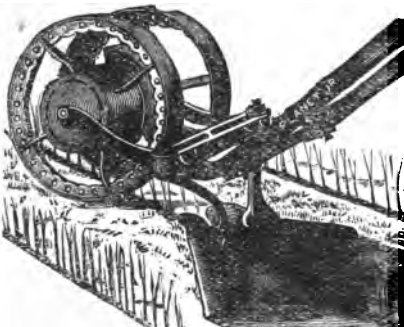
Hoeing Between Rows.

of the row below, and as a cultivator on next page. Such a combination has serious objections, however. Its double purpose necessarily makes it complicated, and less effective in either capacity, and whenever you use it you are wearing out two implements at the same time. If you think you can afford but one tool, by all means sow seeds by hand, and buy a separate double wheel-

hoe. A good horse-hoe can now be purchased at almost any hardware store. The "Planet Jr.," always unsurpassed, is always the leader in improvements, and has some novel attractions for the coming season. One for instant adjustment of width, and another for quickly securing the handles to one side or the other, is a boon to grape, hop, and blackberry growers, and whenever covering or making up plant ridges is to be done. The illustration on next page shows it in a useful form, with a set of teeth which are only $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches



Onion Set Harvester



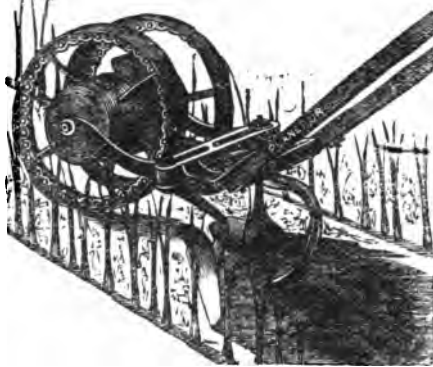
Combined Drill and Wheel-Hoe.

in width, and such do the best work in stirring the soil. For many reasons an even surface of the soil is most desirable, and we want no ridges and furrows. Hilling is required only in rare cases, such as the last cultivation of potatoes, or in the celery field; and the hilling blades can then be substituted for the two narrow outside blades. If I further emphasize the necessity of having the hand hoes bright

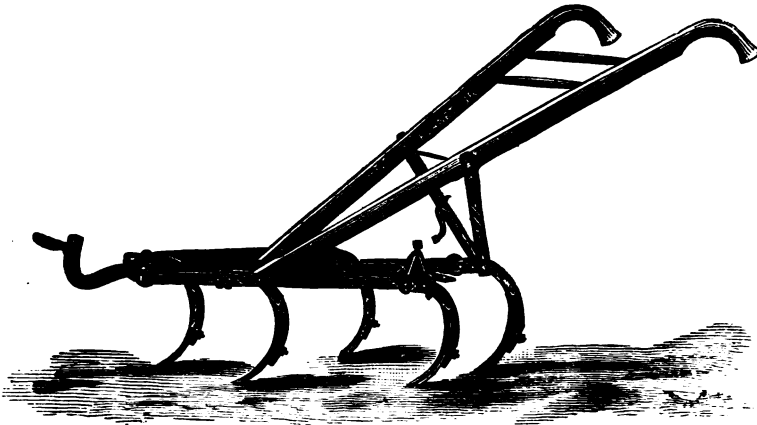
clean, and sharp, and hung in the proper angle to a light, smooth handle; of keeping the steel and cutting parts of all implements bright, and well oiled when not in use, and all tools

in their places under cover, little else remains to be added on the subject of tools of tillage. Implements for special use, such as asparagus bunchers, spinach cutters, hand weeders, etc., will be mentioned elsewhere.

It is hardly necessary to speak of wagons, etc., as their selection depends on local fashions, and special purposes. A good manure-spreader may be a convenient implement; but I question whether it can be considered indispensable in even a large market garden. With the use of many implements of tillage, such as the various styles of hoes, spades, shovels, forks, etc., the question of "best" is often dependent on the habit of the user. Some people after having once acquired the "knack" of



Combined Drill and Wheel-Hoe.



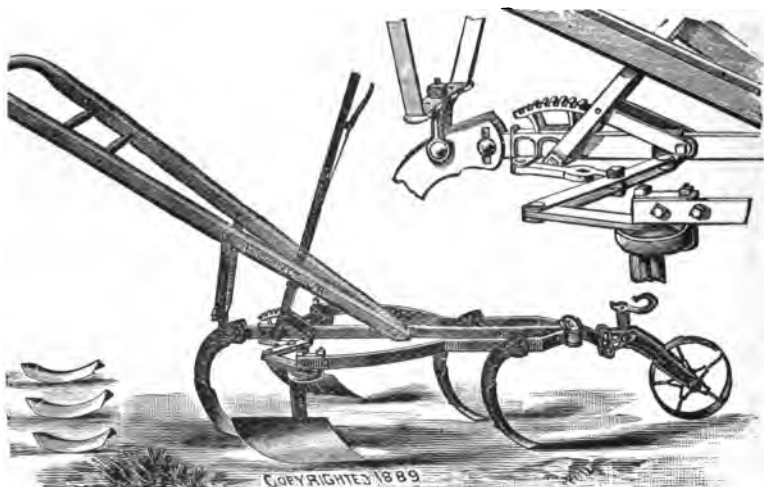
Planet Jr. Horse Hoe.

handling a certain tool to advantage will do much better work with it than with a superior or more modern one. The employer must humor the whims of the hired help in such cases, and give them just the tool that they have learned to use with skill and to best advantage.

The improvement of gardening implements, both large and small, is still going on at a rapid rate. The leader of to-day may be crowded into second or third rank to-morrow. This keeps the progressive gardener on the alert all the time to enable him

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to profit by any new device that may be of unusual merit, and to keep ahead of his competitors. On the other hand I can hardly advise the gardener of moderate means to invest in every new implement as soon as put on the market under high claims. Progressiveness in this respect may well and profitably be tempered with quite a considerable amount of conservatism. Among implements not yet in market, but sadly needed, I would mention, 1) a contrivance for mixing paris green and land-plaster in a rapid, safe, convenient and thorough manner ; 2) a cheap portable pump



Latest Improvements on Planet Jr. Horse Hoe.

or apparatus for spraying plants with liquid poisons and fungicides ; 3) an implement for pulverizing the soil in the bottom of deep furrows when preparing them for planting potatoes ; 4) a more convenient garden-marker than any described in this work—one to be pushed rather than pulled—cheap and simple, etc.

CHAPTER X.

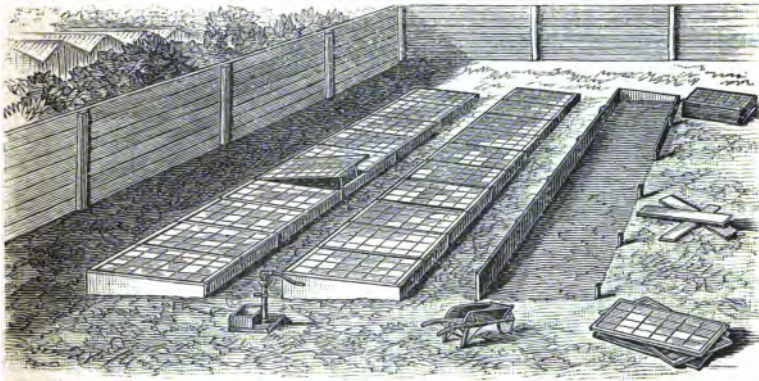
COLD FRAMES.

THEIR CONSTRUCTION AND USE.

"This is an art that mends nature."

COLD frames are simple affairs—box-like structures covered with sashes. The latter are the chief part, and involve the real expense in the construction of such frames, but being a staple article of commerce, and manufactured with special machinery in special factories, can now be bought at (or ordered through) any supply store at moderate prices. They usually cost \$2.00 each, ready glazed and painted, and perhaps can be had cheaper in large quantities. The usual size is 6 feet in length by 3 feet in width, and the frames are made to correspond, namely 6 feet wide and 3 feet in length for every sash to be accommodated.

The selection of site is important. The proper place for frames is in convenient proximity to the water supply, and also



Arrangement of Cold Frames.

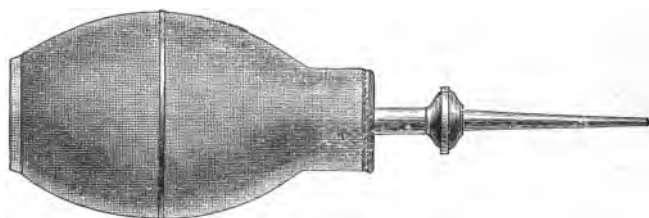
in a position sheltered from the north and west, facing south or south-east. A close and tall hedge of evergreens affords a most excellent protection, but if such does not happen to be where it can be utilized for the purpose, a tight board fence, at least six feet high, must be built at the north side of the beds and

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extending their whole length. A building, hedge or board fence at the west is also desirable. In this comfortable situation construct your system of frames, making it as easily accessible as convenient for operation, and as snug generally as circumstances will permit. The frame is set on top of the ground, no excavation being required. The back is made of boards 12 inches wide, nailed to stakes driven in the ground at the ends and middle of each board; the front consists of boards only 8 inches wide, and fastened to stakes in the same manner, at a uniform distance of 6 feet from the first. When the necessary end pieces are adjusted we have a close fitting box, 4 inches lower in front than at the back. Such a system of frames, in process of construction, is shown on preceding page.

The number of sashes required by the market gardener depends on extent of business and area, and still more largely on the particular line of work in which he is engaged. For general market garden purposes it may take 20 to 25 sashes to each acre of ground, but when frames are extensively used for the production of vegetables, such as spinach, lettuce, carrots, beets, parsley and soup celery, or in the special line of growing plants for sale, the number of sashes required will be proportionately larger. Some gardeners devote their energies almost exclusively to cold-frame products.

In some cases it is more convenient to buy the sash frames unglassed, and put the glass in them on the premises. In this emergency, as also in the work of repairing and patching old



Improved Putty Bulb.

sashes, the newer method of putting on putty in liquid form, and by means of a putty bulb, can be recommended as quite convenient, and preferable to the old way. The mixture used for this is composed of one-third white lead, one-third common putty, and one-third boiled oil, all by measure not by weight. Mix oil and putty thoroughly, add the white lead, and strain. If too thick, as liable to be in cold weather, add a small quantity of benzine or turpentine. Paint the sash; then fill the bulb with the liquid putty, run a little of it along the sash bars, then bed the glass on it, and run more of the liquid along the edges of the

glass, next to the bars; allow it to harden and you have a neat and tight joint.

USE OF FRAMES.—Let us suppose that the cold frames are available in the autumn for regular work. The first use to be made of them is in wintering cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce plants for the extra early crops. Some gardeners sow the seed directly into the frames in rows a few inches apart and thin afterwards. A better way, undoubtedly, is to sow the seed in open ground, about 15th of September, and transplant four weeks later to the frames. It is of greatest importance that each plant should have its just allowance of space. Cabbage and cauliflower plants should have 5 or 6 square inches each (plant in rows 3 inches apart and 2 inches apart in the row), and lettuce plants somewhat closer ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart in the rows). The general tendency with gardeners is to plant too thickly—and this is a prolific cause of failure, or of poor plants. A good practice, also, is to make two sowings in open ground, about September 15th and 20th, to be sure of plants. If the first sown get too large, the others will be just right. Cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce plants are quite hardy, and can endure considerable cold weather without injury. The sashes must be put on by the time winter sets in, and the chief point of importance afterwards is unceasing and untiring attention to proper ventilation. We should bear in mind that the object is not, to grow plants during the winter, but to keep them on a perfect stand-still (dormant), and make them so hardy that they will at once start into lively growth when planted out in spring, even in rather cool weather, and be able to endure late severe freezes without check. For this reason a moderately low, not a warm temperature is required in the frames, and also a considerable amount of exposure. On cold but clear winter days, and when the temperature is not lower than within a few degrees of zero, the sashes should be partly raised, by tilting at back or front, or by partial removal, or in any other convenient way. This requires considerable attention and good judgment. During moderate weather the sashes had best be removed entirely. Constant watchfulness, and doing the right thing at the right time, will insure good plants. Only in a climate with severe winters are shutters or mats required for additional protection. What they are, and how made, is told in next chapter. Deep snow should not be left very many days upon the sashes, unless the ground in the beds was frozen at the time of its fall. Early removal is the safer treatment.

With all the progress that we have made of late in horticultural art, and in spite of all the efforts put forth by good writers and publishers in behalf of the distribution of horticultural knowledge, it is a fact that the production of good plants is the exception, and that failure, wholly or in part, is the rule. Hence

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we often find the liveliest demand for well-grown wintered plants at paying figures, \$4.00 to \$5.00 per 1,000, being the usual price, which gives an average of \$2.00 to \$2.50 for the plants covered by one sash.

One of the most successful gardeners says: "I would prefer such wintered plants at \$10 per thousand to spring (hot-bed) grown plants as a gift—not to speak of the worthless plants that are shipped every spring by the hundred thousand from the South, and palmed off on the public as cold-frame-wintered plants." If, on account of failure or neglect, the frames are not provided with plants, and these are needed for early use, the next best method of growing them is the following: pack a layer of fermenting horse manure all around the cold frames, and sow the seed in them in February; or still better, use hot-beds as directed under proper heading.

Another, and a very important use of the cold frames is for the production of spinach, radishes, parsley, soup celery, carrots, beets, etc., for early market. Spinach may be sown in the autumn, and marketed during the winter, or as soon as the crop is large enough, and prices acceptable. The frames can then be replanted with the same or some other crop. Vegetables thus grown in cold frames often find ready sale and remunerative prices in April or May. The extent to which the gardener can engage in this work depends on local conditions, and these must be consulted. Make the soil in the frames very rich by mixing it freely with good compost. Watering the beds with weak solutions of nitrate of soda generally has marked results in producing quick growth, heavy development of foliage and excellent quality, especially crispness and tenderness. Always sow the seeds in rows across the beds. Early "marketableness" and the greatly desired uniformity can only be secured by attention to proper thinning, and this should be given just as soon as the young plants are large enough to show individual thrift and other qualities, so the most promising may be left, and the undesirable ones removed. Growing crops under glass is an expensive business on account of the glass and the attention it requires, and space is valuable. Hence, to attain satisfactory results, we must aim to cover the whole area under glass with vegetable growth, yet without undue crowding. Not a single square inch of the available area should be left unutilized, and yet not a single plant checked in its development for lack of space. This is a matter requiring considerable care and judgment, and without these failure is more certain than success.

The results of a series of careful experiments made by observing and inquisitive growers of cold frame crops right in my immediate neighborhood seem to speak in favor of the distances

named in the following table, as most profitable for this special purpose, viz. :

Sow spinach in rows 8-9 inches apart, thin to 2 inches.					
" beets	"	7	"	"	3
" carrots	"	6	"	"	2
" radishes	"	4	"	"	2
" soup celery	"	6	"	"	
" parsley	"	6	"	"	

Under no circumstances would it be safe to make the rows still narrower, or leave the plants closer in the rows. If you vary from these distances, by all means make them larger. Instead of planting the radishes by themselves, however, it is generally preferable to sow one row between each two rows of any of the other vegetables. This makes the rows as close as three inches apart in some cases; but the radishes will be off in time for the other stuff to occupy the space when it is needed.

The usual time for sowing these crops is about March 1st for New Jersey, and correspondingly earlier or later further south or north; in other words, from two to four weeks sooner than the same vegetables could be sown in the open ground. This is late enough to insure safety from injury by the tail end of winter; it is also early enough to hit the time of brisk demand, and realize the best prices. The aim is to get these crops from one to four weeks ahead of the earliest out-door supply. The competition from the South is generally not very formidable, as their modes of cultivation, perhaps their soil and climate, and certainly the long shipment always lower the value of vegetables from there in the eyes of consumers and dealers. The near-by products often bring high prices when the southern supply goes a-begging.

This also is the case with head lettuce, so-called. This, like the other crops, is grown in cold frames during the latter part of winter for marketing in early spring. Many gardeners make it a practice to have a number of spare frames without sash, but covered during winter with litter to keep the ground from freezing. When the time arrives that the cabbage and lettuce plants in the regular frames can get along without glass protection, perhaps by March 1st, the spare frames are made ready, planted with lettuce plants from the wintered supply, and these set six or seven inches apart each way. They are then covered with the sashes taken from the cold frames containing wintered plants, and tended in a similar way as the plant frames by giving ventilation when needed. Aim to stimulate early and full development of the crop in every way possible. Applications of nitrate of soda, either dry or in solution, or of liquid manure hardly ever fail to pay well. If it is thought risky to leave the wintered plants, from which the sashes were removed, entirely without protection,

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simple home-made frames covered with common muslin (or with the waterproof cloth now made for the purpose), might be substituted for the glass sashes, and the plants kept thus protected during the night until danger is past.

WATERING THE BEDS.—It is not necessary to apply water at this time very frequently, except quite late in the season, and during clear weather; but when done the application should be thorough—no mere sprinkling will do. The most convenient method is by means of force pump or pressure, and rubber hose. Later the rains of heaven should be called into service whenever they happen to occur at an opportune period. The careful manager, by speedy and entire removal of the sashes from the beds, can often save much labor otherwise required for watering the crops by artificial means.

In many localities, especially where the seasons are comparatively long, as in New Jersey, the cold frames after having done duty in the production of vegetables, may then be further used for growing late tomato plants, or for finishing and hardening off tomato plants raised in hot-beds. Market gardeners in districts where tomatoes are grown in field culture for the canning establishments, often have considerable call for plants up to July. It is true such plants must be sold low, often at no more than \$1.50 per thousand; but as they are grown as a second or third crop, and 600 to 800 of them may be grown under each sash, this feature adds quite considerably to the profits of running cold frames.

Forcing cucumbers is another industry in which the cold frame is made to serve a good purpose. After the lettuce or crop of wintered plants is cleared off, a few cucumber seeds are planted in center of sash. When the vines are up, ventilation is given as needed, and the sashes removed entirely as soon as the season has pretty well advanced, and the vines begin to crowd the sashes. This crop, coming, as did the other, a few weeks in advance of the earliest out-door supply, generally brings remunerative prices. Melons can be grown in a similar way.

The exact dates of planting, what crops to grow, and to what extent for each—all these are questions of local bearing, depending on climate, season, demand of the market, and usual price of products. In every one of these enterprises constant thought and study, earnest consideration of these questions in all their intricacy and various aspects and bearings, and pretty good judgment, are first requisites of success. On these the whole matter hinges, much more than on rules and instructions which at best can be only of a general rather than special character.

Southern climate often permits the use of cold frames, where hot-beds would be required at the north.

By taking advantage of the additional protection during the night that mats or shutters afford, tomato and even egg-plants can be grown without bottom heat. This question, however, must also be left largely to the judgment of the individual grower, who is acquainted with his local conditions.

The use of cold frames in starting lima beans, cucumbers, melons, etc., by planting on squares of inserted sod, which are to be transferred to the open ground when the season has sufficiently advanced, will be referred to at another occasion.

CHAPTER XI.

MANURE HOT-BEDS.

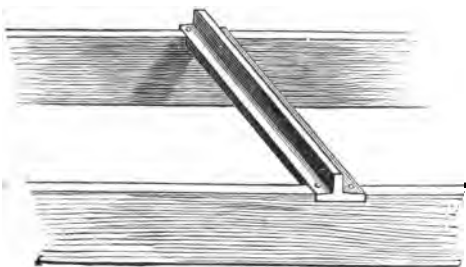
THEIR CONSTRUCTION AND USE.

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."



N outward appearance and arrangement hot-beds resemble the cold frames described in preceding chapter. In the cold frames no artificial heat was employed, while the hot-beds have what is called "bottom heat." The material most generally used by gardeners for producing this heat is fresh horse manure.

The proper place for the hot-beds is in same plot with the cold frames, near the water supply, and under the shelter of a hill, building, or tight, tall fence or hedge. Make an excavation a little more than six feet wide (for sash of common length), 24 inches deep, and as long as needed to accommodate the desired number of sashes, running east and west, or northeast and southwest. Set stakes half a board length apart on each side, and enclose



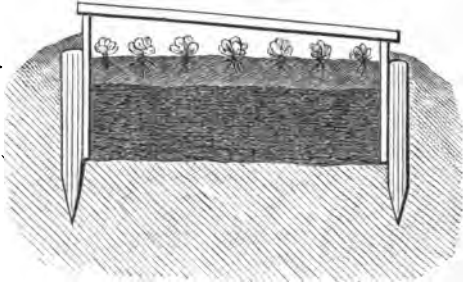
Cross-bar for hot-bed.

the excavation tightly with boards clear from the bottom up, to hinder the intrusion of moles, rats and mice. The north side may be 12 or 18 inches high above the surface, the south side six inches lower, so as to give the sashes the needed slope to carry off rain and snow water, and

the sun all the better chance to reach the soil, and stimulate plant life under the sashes. When the frame is in place, a strip of inch board, wide enough to serve as rest for the sash edges, and having a two inch upright in the centre, as shown in illustration, is then fastened across where each two sashes meet.

The preparation of the manure, although quite a simple matter, is still a mysterious subject for many gardeners, and the knowledge of the simple principles involved in this question is

not general. Many growers fear the uncertainties connected with this method of heating beds. The yeast fungus, which is the cause of fermentation, if once introduced into a manure heap suitable to its growth, spreads quite rapidly, and soon has the whole mass in a state of heat. Horse manure is the best because richest or "hottest," for this purpose, and sheep manure comes next. The manure made from animals fed highly with grain, bran, oil meal, etc., is most suitable. It should contain plenty of urine-soaked litter; and the addition of half its bulk of dry forest leaves, especially after they have been used as absorbents in the stables, is always of advantage. The object in view is the production of uniform and immediate heat all through the bed, and for this reason the spores or seed of fermentation should be spread all through the manure heap, and the latter thus tempered—leavened, as it were. To do this, draw the manure to a convenient place near the hot-beds, and pile it up in a conical heap, leaving it there until fermentation has well started in. In very cold weather it may be necessary to cover the pile lightly with straw, hay, or other loose litter to prevent freezing from the outside before the heating has begun. Before fermentation becomes too lively, as indicated by escaping steam, the heap may be forked over again, and piled up as before for a few days to heat, or thrown immediately into the pit, taking pains to mix the fermenting part all through the whole mass, and to break up all lumps. If the manure is already very



Hot-bed cross section.

hot at this time, tread it down firmly; but if fermentation has only just set in lightly, leave the manure in the pit somewhat loose, and fill up clear to the top of frames. In settling, a depression is apt to form all along the middle of the bed, and right there the manure should be packed more solid than at the sides. Now put on the sashes, and leave until fermentation has again become quite active all through the bed; then tread down solid, even off where needed, and cover with soil about six inches deep. Soil, to be in best condition for this purpose, should have been prepared the fall previous, and be kept safe from freezing until wanted. It must be rich and fine, and consist of about one-third well-rotted compost, and two-thirds good loam, rotten turf, etc.

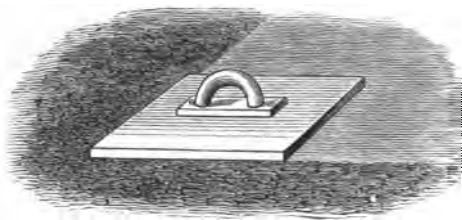
The beds should now be left until the soil has become

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warmed through, and the weed seeds near the surface have had time to germinate. Then remove the sashes, rake the surface thoroughly to kill the weeds, and make a smooth and fine seed-bed; and you are ready for planting or sowing seed. The illustration on preceding page represents a cross-section of bed.

Sometimes the manure, especially if poor, *i. e.* from poorly-fed animals, refuses to come to a heat. Then all you have to do is to make it richer by mixing it with hen manure, bone dust or by throwing hot soapsuds, rank liquid manure, etc., upon it. This treatment will generally bring it to terms. One good load of manure is about sufficient for two sashes.

The depth of the manure in hot-beds is variously given as 18, 24 and 30 inches. This is a question hinging on locality, season and plants to be grown. For general purposes in a climate like that of New Jersey or southern Pennsylvania, and late in February, or beginning of March, an 18-inch layer of fermenting manure may do; but in a severer climate, earlier in the winter, or for the production of pepper and egg plants, or other plants requiring considerable heat, the manure should be 24 to 30 inches in depth, and the pit be dug deep enough to answer these conditions. The first use in the season made of the hot-beds is in grow-



Firming Board.

ing lettuce for early market. They are got in readiness and planted by middle of January. Plant about 6 or 7 inches square, cover the beds with straw mats or light shutters during cold nights, and give ventilation in clear, warm days.

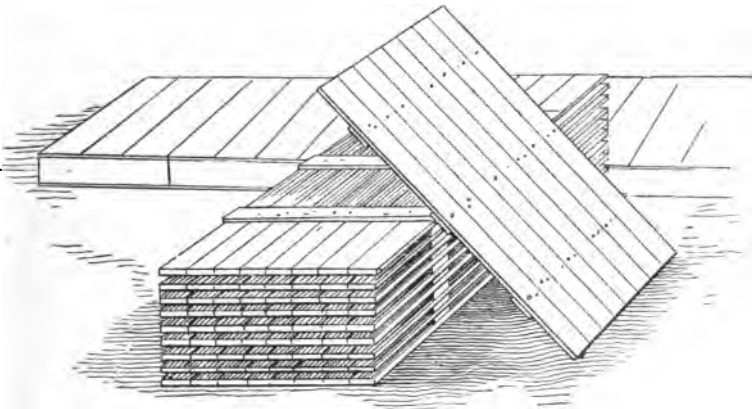
Radishes are grown in same way. Watering, if not done by means of a stream forced through rubber hose, is facilitated by means of a long-spouted watering pot or sprinkler. When the crop is taken off, the beds may be used same as cold frames.

STARTING EARLY PLANTS.—The chief and most important use of hot-beds is for the production of egg plants, tomato and pepper plants, also of cabbage plants for early planting when the needed supply of cold-frame-wintered plants is not at hand. For starting tomato, egg and pepper plants, the beds are generally put in readiness in February or March, and the seed sown rather thickly (best in regular rows), lightly covered with fine soil, mold or pulverized moss, and firmed by lightly patting the soil with some convenient implement, as the back

of rake or hoe, or with a piece of board with handle, made especially for this purpose, of the shape shown in engraving.

In watering, a fine rose sprinkler, or a coarse spray nozzle and tepid water should be used. It is not safe to let the soil get dry, or to neglect ventilation on warm clear days. During cold nights, especially at the extreme North, the beds will need additional protection by straw mats or board shutters. The liability of the weather to surprise us with sudden changes must keep the grower always on the alert. It is never wise to withhold protection for the night because the evening is warm, or neglect the bed for the day because the morning is cloudy. Sometimes in a dark day, when ventilation does not seem to be required, the sun will suddenly break through the clouds at mid-day, threatening to burn the plants if the sashes are not speedily removed or raised. In short, hot-beds require constant and careful watching.

SHUTTERS AND MATS.—The shutters used for additional protection are made of half-inch stuff, and of size of sash. A stack of them piled up when not in use, is here illustrated.

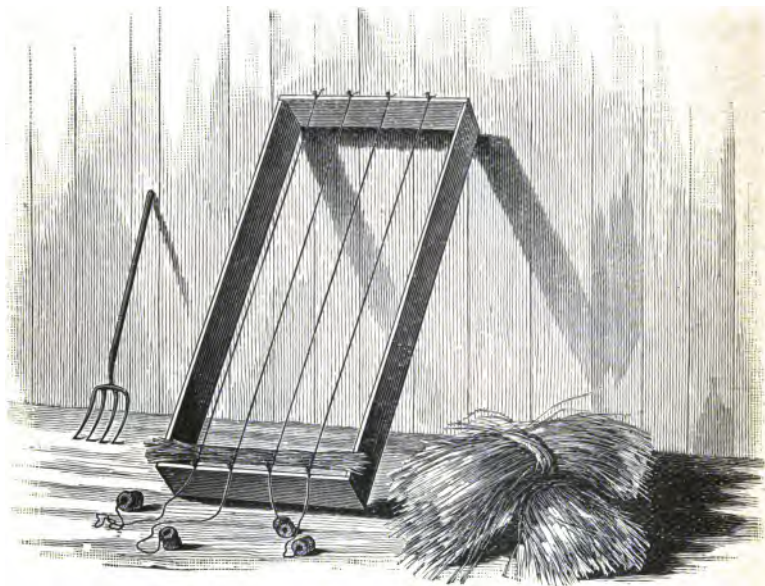


Stack of Shutters.

The straw mats can also be made by the most unskilled person from long rye straw tied with tarred string. Their manufacture is a simple thing indeed. Make a frame 7 by 4 feet, as seen in engraving, and tightly stretch four or five parallel stout tarred strings, ten to twelve inches apart, from top to bottom. Have as many balls of lighter tarred string, and fasten one end to each upright string next the bottom, leaving the balls in front of the frame. Now lay a whisk of straw, cut sides out, in the junction of the strings at the bottom, and fasten it there by twisting each of the smaller strings once around the straw and the upright

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string. Next put on another whisk of straw, and continue until frame is full, and the mat finished. The whole expense connected with these handy conveniences and effective means of protecting early tender plants in frames is a quantity of nice, clean, bright rye straw and some tarred string. The labor required in making them does not count for much as the work can be done in a convenient outbuilding, or under a shed during rainy days at leisure. In the course of a season a large supply of such mats may be made, and as they can be rolled up, stored and handled conveniently, and besides give the very best of protection against cold, they are greatly to be preferred to



Frame for making Straw Mats.

board shutters. Rye cut before the grain has formed makes the best material for mats, and the gardener in need of them will find it a good plan to have a piece of rye grown and cut at the period named for this very purpose.

FLATS, ETC.—When the plants are large enough—perhaps in five or six weeks—they are transplanted in other newly-made hot-beds giving space enough for their full development, or 2 to 4 inches square. This is often done (and a superior way it is) by putting an inch or so of sand or soil upon the new manure, and placing upon this foundation, close together, shallow boxes called “flats” into which the plants are set at the proper distance. If plants are to be retailed by the dozen, it is well to make the

flats hold one dozen plants each, or of various sizes and containing various quantities as may be desired by the purchaser. More and more ventilation is given as the season advances, and the plants must be perfectly hardened off by exposure, transfer to open cold frames or otherwise, before they can be safely placed into the open ground. This is a matter of greater importance than most people imagine. Millions of early started and well-grown plants are annually set out, that in transplanting before they have been properly accustomed to the hardships of outdoor life, receive a check from which they do not recover soon enough to prevent much later plants, or even natural seedlings, from getting ahead of them, and producing fruit much the earliest. The proper hardening off of plants is one of the secrets of success, and perhaps a leading one, in the production of early crops of garden fruits.

SOIL FOR FLATS.—The most important item of annual expense connected with running manure hot-beds is the manure used for fuel. But, after all, this costs nothing in reality, since it loses very little fertilizing substance by the process of slow combustion in the hot-bed, and when dug out next fall, or in the spring following, is worth fully as much to the gardener as when first put in, if not more. It went into the pit—a raw and unreliable manure; it comes out—a fine, rich compost, and when mixed with the soil in the hot-beds, and perhaps still increased in bulk by additional admixture of sandy loam, then fined and sifted, makes the very best imaginable soil for the “flats” spoken of, or for hot-bed and cold frame use generally, and this is worth to the gardener even more than first cost of the manure.*

While therefore the item of expense alone is decidedly in favor of manure hot-beds, there are, on the other hand, serious inconveniences, and sometimes obstacles connected with it. The right kind of manure is not always to be easily obtained, or not in the required quantities; the heat is only partially under the control of the gardener, and the whole thing connected with many uncertainties, especially for the less experienced manager. Then there is the annual digging, and composting, and refilling, and with all these inconveniences, your fuel will last only for a few weeks. For this reason I have always looked with somewhat of disfavor upon manure as fuel for hot-beds, and have had an open eye for a more steady and controllable heating method. In some respects I consider the fire hot-bed a great improvement on the manure hot-bed.

* If hot-bed and cold frame making is a new undertaking, and soil was not prepared, as it should be, the summer or fall before, nor compost from hot-beds to be had for the purpose, it is often difficult to find just what is wanted in the winter with the ground frozen solid. It may then be necessary to look for a supply in the cellar, under barns, sheds, other outbuildings, or under the manure heap. Cart from any source at hand, mix and sift, through a coarse sieve first, and through finer ones as the stuff becomes drier and finer.

CHAPTER XII.

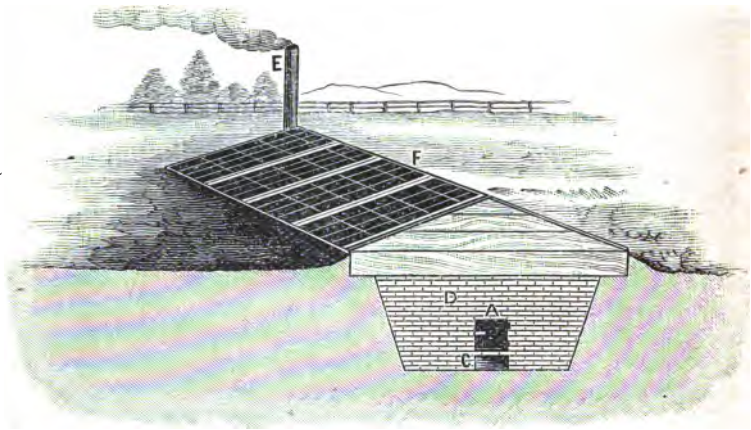
FIRE HOT-BEDS

AND THEIR CONSTRUCTION.

"Nothing is denied to well-directed labor."



THE cognizance of the weak points in the common manure hot-bed has led progressive people to try wood and coal heat in beds otherwise similarly constructed. The heat is generated in a simple furnace at the lower end of the bed, and distributed by an ordinary flue beneath the bed, running its entire length, and ending in a chimney at the opposite end. To promote the equal distribution of heat under the soil, the flue at a little distance from the furnace may be divided in two or three



Fire Hot-Beds.

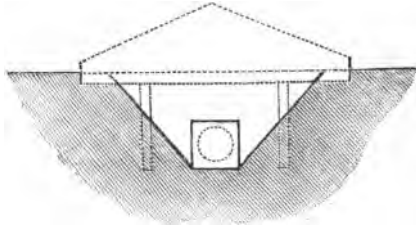
parallel branches or pipes, uniting again before they enter the chimney.

For reasons of better utilization of the heat, and convenience of management, it is preferable to make these beds intermediate between hot-bed and common greenhouse. For many years I have had such beds under my observation, and found that they

can be run very successfully and economically, and are now run so in many places for forcing lettuce, radishes, etc., followed by egg plant, tomato, pepper or sweet potato plants. A bed of this kind is shown in illustration on preceding page and consists of a double row of sashes forming a gable roof.

The proper place for the structure is near the cold frames or regular hot-beds, and running in same direction of compass. A trench, see illustration, is excavated in centre of bed, slanting from the surface of the ground where it is nearly as wide as the bed, to the bottom where it need not be over half that width. The furnace end should be on lower end of bed and from three to four feet deep. From there the flue rises gradually, say one foot to every ten in length, until it enters the chimney at the end opposite the furnace.

The fire-place may be constructed of fire-brick. Its height is about two feet, ten inches of which are the ash-pit below the grate; its width about twelve inches, and the length of grate twenty-eight or thirty inches. The bottom of the flue immediately in the rear of the furnace must be somewhat above the level of the grate, say 6 or 8 inches, to prevent ashes and cinders from getting into the flues. The first 8 or 10 feet of flue must be constructed of brick; the remainder may consist of terra-cotta as used as a substitute for



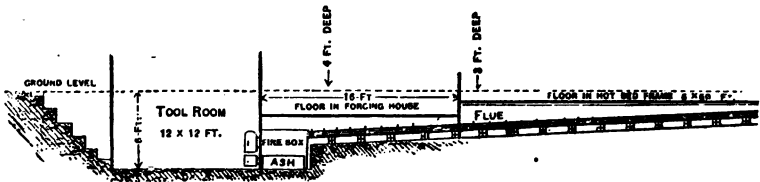
Trench for Fire Hot-Bed.

brick chimneys, or even of 10-inch tile drain. The chimney may be of brick or of terra-cotta, whatever the builder prefers. A pit immediately in front of the fire-place, to the depth of bottom of ash-pit, allows the operator to tend the fire, and when not in use, is kept covered by a slanting door. A solid frame-work, well supported underneath, holds a floor of plank or boards for the soil, and a frame for the sashes to rest upon. The most common mistake made in the erection of a fire hot-bed is right in this frame-work. Few people seem to bear in mind that this has to carry a considerable weight, and being exposed to the influence of constant dampness, is liable to decay and give out very soon, unless the timbers are strong, well-put up, and of a kind not easily affected by moisture. The whole arrangement of the bed is so simple that anybody of ordinary understanding should be able to put it up without difficulty. The gardener's common sense will dictate to him the details not mentioned. The greatest objection to a hot-bed of this kind—tendency towards dryness of atmosphere, and necessity of frequent

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watering—may in a measure be overcome by placing shallow pans upon the flue under the floor of bed, and keeping them constantly supplied with water.

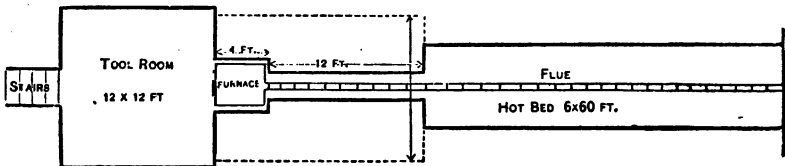
The Michigan Agricultural College has recently built a fire hot-bed which comprises some very meritorious features, and the description given by C. S. Crandall in "Popular Gardening" well deserves a place here. "Our fire hot-bed," says Mr. Crandall, "was not alone a hot-bed, but combined a small forcing house where we could work under the glass, and a tool room twelve feet square. Depth of excavation, and position of furnace is indicated in illustration. The hot-bed, six feet by sixty feet, was excavated full width, one foot deep at the chimney end and three feet at the



Length Section of Fire Hot-Bed.

other, and was fitted with frame same as for an ordinary bed. Then narrowing the trench to two and one-half feet, it was continued twelve feet to the furnace, where it was lowered six feet from the surface, and continued on this level for furnace bottom and tool room floor. Seen from above, the excavation would appear as in next figure.

"The dotted line indicates the outline of forcing house portion. This was 11 feet wide. The outer walls consist of pieces of two by four-inch scantling set into the ground, boarded on both sides, and the top capped with 2 by 6-inch scantling, on which the rafters and sashes rest. These walls project above ground about 18 inches, and are banked to the top on the outside with earth. Upright pieces of scantling placed against the sides of the



Ground Plan of Fire Hot-Bed.

trench served as supports for the rafters. Five sashes are used on each side. The adjoining tool room wall formed one end, the other was double-boarded down to the hot-bed frame, with which it was connected.

“The trench was boarded up as high as the ground level, and the bottom floored over, a few inches above the flue, thus forming a passage between the beds. The beds were covered with boards, and on these were placed our seed and plant boxes. In the hot-bed frame the floor made of inch-boards was laid level, being close down to the flue near the chimney end, and nearly two feet above it at the other end. The sides were extended above the floor 14 inches in front and 18 inches at the back, giving slope sufficient to carry the water off the sashes. At intervals of six feet, and alternating from side to side, spaces were left between the floor and the sides for the passage of warm air to the plant space above.

“On a portion of this floor earth was placed to the depth of eight inches, and some seeds sown here, but nearly all our plants were started in the forcing house in boxes, and as it became crowded, the boxes were transferred to the hot-beds, placing the tender sorts at the end nearest the furnace, but cabbage and similar plants near the chimney.

“The tool room, used also for the storage of coal, potting soil, etc., was walled with brick and covered with a shingle roof. The furnace was built of brick. A frame with doors to fire box and ash pit formed the front, and was set even with the inner face of the tool room wall, and held in place by rods built into the furnace wall. The fire box, lined with fire brick, was 30 inches long, 15 inches wide, and 18 inches high in the centre. The ash pit, 8 inches deep below the grates, had same width and length as fire box. We used a single flue of 6-inch sewer pipe running straight from furnace to chimney. This was supported on brick, four inches from bottom of trench, and the joints were made tight with fire clay and mortar.

“On starting the hot-bed we found a difficulty in the excessive radiation from the flue joints nearest the furnace. This was obviated by encasing the first twelve feet in an outer brick flue, which was allowed to open into the air chamber under the hot-bed. The dryness of heat obtained by this method of heating renders necessary the maintenance of pans of water over the furnace, and at intervals along the flue. The experience of the year proved so clearly the utility and convenience of our forcing house that we removed the hot-bed frame and converted the whole length into forcing house, excavating full width of eleven feet, and running two flues, one under each trench.”

“Plants can be successfully grown in fire hot-beds, and in many cases at less expense than in manure-heated beds. For a forcing house, such as I have spoken of, the same sashes, the same furnace and flues required for a hot-bed can be used. The only difference is in the additional lumber necessary for the frame, and the extra labor of construction. So I would suggest

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to anyone contemplating a fire hot-bed, that they carefully calculate the cost of both hot-bed and forcing house, and then do not let a reasonable difference in cost prevent them from choosing to build the forcing house. Very many cheap houses of this character, varying somewhat in construction, according to the taste and means of the owner, are built every year. Their utility has been demonstrated, and their cost is within the means of gardeners who now depend entirely upon hot-beds."

I have given this detailed description, not to advise the reader to build exactly in the same way, but to make him acquainted with the true principles underlying the construction and management of fire hot-beds and similar structures, general rules which he will be wise to follow pretty closely while the arrangement of minor details can be left to his individual taste and preferences.

Fire hot-beds in some respects are undoubtedly a great improvement on the old-style manure hot-beds. Yet I believe there is still room for further improvement. Hot-water boiler and pipes may yet play a very important part in the make-up of the hot-bed of the future. As the old flue had to give way to hot water and steam pipes in green-house heating, so will the fire hot-bed have to make room for the hot-bed heated by hot water or steam. Flues will have to go; but it looks to me that the hot-bed of the future may be a hot house or forcing pit, and not a hot-bed at all. But whether the one or the other, now that we have cheap iron furnaces, some of them self-feeders, for hot water heating, I can see no reason why the flue beds with their dry heat should be used. Hot water gives us an easily-controlled, uniform and altogether unobjectionable heat, and can be used with perfect safety, and for any purpose of forcing and plant-growing with far less attendance than a fire hot-bed will demand. The hot-water heating system has the further advantage that it dispenses with deep trenches under the beds and with the frame work needed for fire hot-beds, which is so liable to give out in consequence of the supports rotting away. The only excavation worthy the name is that for the boiler or furnace, while the pipes can be imbedded one foot below the surface of the hot-bed soil, or otherwise arranged in the same way as will be described for the modern forcing house.

CHAPTER XIII.

COLD VEGETABLE HOUSES.

HOW TO BUILD AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM.

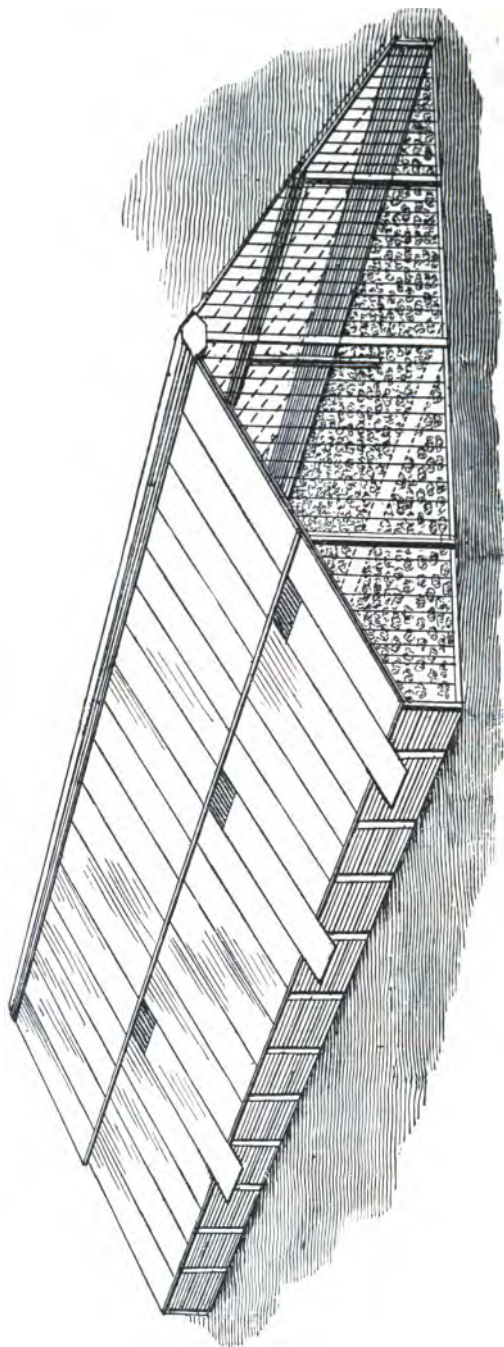
"Make the most of it."



HE management of cold frames for forcing vegetables naturally involves considerable inconvenient outdoor work during the season of raw and chilly winds, cold rains and snows; and progressive market gardeners have sought to relieve themselves of the unpleasant job, and at the same time of a part of the real hard back-aching work connected with it, by the substitution of plant houses for plant beds. Such structures which afford glass protection not only to the crops but also to those who work among them, have recently come in use among Eastern market gardeners, especially within marketing distance of the large cities near the Atlantic Coast, and generally give entire satisfaction to the owner, not only with respect to the personal convenience of doing the work in them, but also from a financial standpoint. Next figure presents a full view of a house of this kind—in reality nothing more nor less than a piece of ground covered and enclosed by a simple frame-work which supports a roof of common hot-bed sashes. The sun rays and the protection that the glass affords are the sole reliance of the grower for the heat needed to produce his crops. Such houses, of course, will do very well in a climate like that of the coast section from New York city southward; but where the winters are much longer and severer, and clear days less the rule during the winter months, artificial heat will probably be indispensable.

The construction of the building is very simple. Each side of the roof consists of two tiers of common (3 by 6) hot-bed sashes, the peak being 8 feet high, making the building about 20 or 21 feet in width, and three feet for every four sashes in length. The sides are two feet high, and made of common rough boards (of double thickness with building paper between) nailed from the inside to short stakes driven into the ground at suitable intervals. Banking with earth nearly up to where the sashes begin, is a commendable practice. The end facing south or east is glass; while the opposite end is made of boards, preferably of

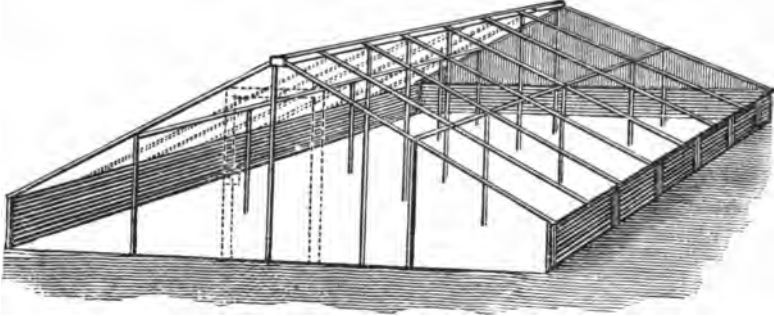
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Cold Forcing House in New Jersey.

Cold Vegetable Houses.—69

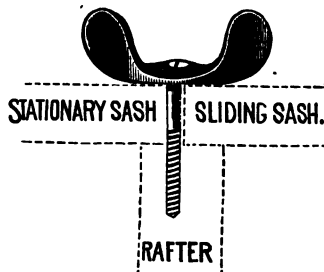
double thickness, like the sides, and with a layer of building paper between. The door is tightly fitted in this end. A row of stakes or posts capped with 2 by 3 (or 3 by 3) scantling under the



Frame of Cold Forcing House.

junction of the two tiers of sashes on each side, and a similar support for the peak, give a solid foundation for the rafters and sashes, and a cap for the peak completes the structure. The frame appears as shown in illustration. The sashes are fastened to the rafters in such a way that they can easily be taken off to be stored away at the beginning of the warm season. Every other one of the lower tiers should be arranged so that it can be slid down, to give ventilation as required, and be held in place by a simple iron button, as illustrated. I need hardly say that it is of greatest importance to have the whole structure snug and tight, for success depends mostly on the effective retention and utilization of the heat accumulated. As little as possible of it should be allowed to escape.

COST OF HOUSE.—One of my former neighbors in New Jersey has two such houses in successful operation, and he is still adding to his area under glass. They are forty sashes, or a little over 120 feet, in length each, covering at least 2,500 square feet of tillable ground. The 160 new sashes for each, ready for use, were bought for \$300. The lumber and the frames and glass for the south end cost about \$100, and figuring the labor of putting up at another \$100 (in the present case there was no cash outlay connected with it, as the owner and his help did all the work themselves): we have an aggregate expense of \$500 for each building, or \$100 for each 5 square feet of tillable ground. The cold-frame



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system, it is true, gives us about 7 square feet of glass-covered area for the same money, but considering the waste space (near the front side of frame for instance) and other disadvantages, the difference in cost of the working surface is hardly worth mentioning. The forcing house, on the other hand, gives us a comfortable place to work in, a chance to work to best advantage in a natural position, instead of lying over the beds on our stomachs, and to work on days when the weather would not permit keeping the beds exposed, or working outdoors without great inconvenience. Considering all the points—the chances for continuous cropping, the full utilization of all available space, the ease of management, and the convenient method of planting, sowing, weeding, etc., and the satisfaction generally which it affords—I do not hesitate to pronounce the house a model of cheapness and convenience. It may not economize the heat as well as if built lower, and in the shape of the heated forcing houses described in next chapter, yet its shape is preferable for many reasons. Comfort, convenience, avoidance of backache, etc., are worth as much to the gardener as to people in other pursuits of life. The satisfaction which the possession of such a house affords is alone worth a good deal. There are people of means who would rather have a more costly and more elaborate affair. These when intending to build a forcing house, should consult agricultural architects, and the catalogues of manufacturers of greenhouses and greenhouse supplies. I have no advice for them. The house which I have described will also be suitable for localities with longer and colder winters, but it will need artificial heating, and this can easily be provided by putting in a furnace and a system of hot-water or steam pipes. Two one-inch steam, or two-inch hot-water pipes around the sides and south end will probably give all the heat required for the purpose of forcing hardy vegetables.

GROWING THE CROPS.—The cold house being put up and ready for use by the first of November or December, the whole tillable ground is made very rich by the free application of fine compost, thoroughly spaded or forked in, with perhaps an additional top dressing of composted and thoroughly fined hen manure. If the soil is of a clayey nature, and the compost does not make it sufficiently porous, spread a few loads of sand over it, and mix the whole by spading or forking over. The gardener can afford to prepare the ground well, for his 2,500 square feet are calculated to give larger returns in cash than a hundred times that area of farming land can be expected to do. The first crop to be grown, same as in cold-frame forcing, is spinach. The rows are marked off 8 or 9 inches apart crosswise of the house, and the seed sown in the usual way, leaving a path through the centre from door (at north end) to rear. Watering should be

attended to when needed, and whenever done should be thorough, so as not to require over-frequent repetition. In theory the plants are to be thinned to 2 inches apart in the rows. In practice they are usually left to grow as they come up; and with good seed, a thoroughly prepared, almost perfect seed-bed, and the water supply under entire control, the gardener can sow thinly enough that the plants will not be unduly crowding each other, and yet cover the entire space—for this latter, as in cold frame management, must be the foremost aim. Stimulate the growth by all legitimate means, give ventilation when needed, and generally treat like plants in cold frames. Cut, barrel and market the stuff when the demand is brisk, and prices good.

Towards the end of February, or early in March, every spot cleared from spinach is at once prepared for the next crop, which may be lettuce and radishes. These vegetables are planted, and generally handled and marketed same as if grown in cold frames, always bearing in mind that they should stand thick enough to cover and utilize every available inch of space, yet without undue crowding. On this point hinges the measure of success. And don't forget the early thinning of the radishes to two inches apart. Boston Market lettuce is yet a general favorite for glass culture. Of radishes, the early round varieties, especially Earliest Scarlet Erfurt, Round Dark Red, Maule's Earliest Scarlet, etc., can justly be recommended for this purpose. All these, under stimulating treatment, can be put in market in between four and six weeks from the time of sowing, so that the house, wholly or in part, will be ready for another crop early in April. This next crop may be cucumbers, egg plants, tomatoes, or whatever promises to give best returns at the time of maturity. Cucumbers (Long Green or White Spine) are usually the crop selected. They are planted in hills five feet apart each way, leaving two or three plants per hill, soon cover the entire area with thrifty and generally healthy vines, and produce cucumbers a number of weeks in advance of the earliest grown in open air, hence at a time when they always bring a good price. When the vines begin to bloom, the sashes are removed, first partly during the day, then entirely both day and night, so that insects have all the chances needed to fertilize (pollenize) the fruit blossoms, and the gardener has no need of using artificial means for the transfer of the pollen to the embryo fruit.

If tomatoes or egg plants are the crop selected, the aim must be the same as with a cucumber crop, namely, to get the fruit into a willing market a few weeks sooner than competition from outdoor growers begins, thus getting the benefit of consumers' sharpened appetites and readiness to pay a remunerative price for the product. The Lorillard and Dwarf Champion tomatoes are probably superior sorts for this purpose. They can

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be planted reasonably close—2½ to 3 feet each way—and should be trimmed to single stalk, and trained to stakes or strings. The King of the Earlies, the earliest market tomato for outdoor culture, although some of our best market gardeners claim it to be the most profitable to grow, is so very poor that I hesitate to recommend it. Placing such stuff on the market in advance of the regular season must have a tendency to disgust consumers with the fruit of the tomato vine from the very start, and to make them use less of it than they would if the first taste were wholly satisfactory. The removal of the sashes at the proper time, as in the other case, will give the dry atmosphere needed for "fruit setting."

PROCEEDS FROM SEASON'S WORK.—Some of my readers will desire to have some estimate of the money that can be realized from the various crops produced during one season in a building as described, and covering 2,500 square feet.

The spinach crop, if well grown, should not be less than 30 barrels. I have seen 40 barrels taken off a cold house of this size, and am sure that 50 can be grown easily enough. To be on the safe side we call it 30 barrels. Late in February, or early in March, it usually brings from \$2.00 to \$3.50 at wholesale in the New York City market. If it nets the grower \$3.00 the crop gives him \$90.00. Next comes the radish crop, consisting of at least 5,000 bunches, netting 2 cents each, or \$100.00 in the aggregate. Lettuce, if grown instead of the radishes, wholly or in part, will bring approximately the same figure. The cucumber (or tomato) crop may add \$75.00 more to the net proceeds, which sum up as follows, viz.:

Spinach, 30 barrels, at \$3.00	\$ 90 00
Radishes, 5,000 bunches, at 2 cents,	100 00
Cucumbers,	75 00

Total net proceeds, \$265 00

Deducting from this sum the amount of interest on investment, with \$35.00, and legitimate wear and tear, with \$30.00, or \$65.00 in all, we have for our season's work in the one cold house the net amount of \$200.00. In most cases the proceeds will be larger, since I have purposely put the returns low enough, and the expenses high enough, in order to be on the safe side in either direction.

I will only add that the cold forcing house as here described, is a contrivance which gives the gardener an opportunity for employment at very fair paying rates during a time of more or less enforced idleness, thus also enabling him to keep a good hired man, if he has such, permanently the year round, instead of discharging all hands at the beginning of winter, and beginning with an entirely new set of raw hands next spring.


CHAPTER XIV.

FORCING HOUSES OR PITS.

SIMPLE, SENSIBLE STRUCTURES, SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED.

COST, CONSTRUCTION, ETC.

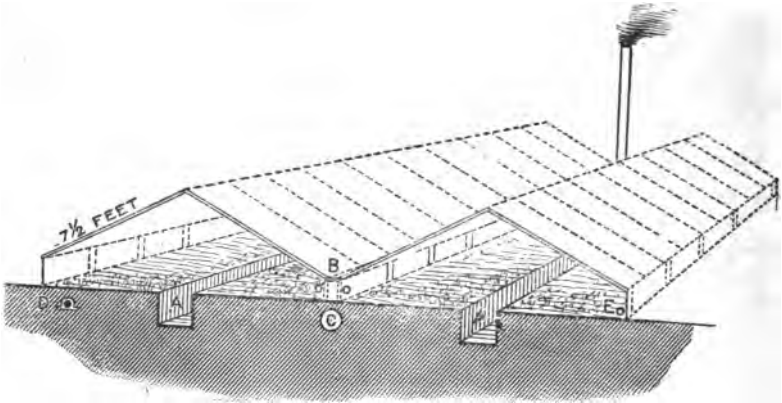
"What you do, do with your might."

 NOW that I have told the reader in one of the preceding chapters how to construct and manage hot-beds, I go a step further, and advise him not to build them. When any one wants hot-beds for use in commercial plant and vegetable growing, let him build the more convenient, more economically managed, and more controllable hot-houses or rather forcing pits, which in reality are somewhat intermediate between hot-bed and hot-house, and now in use by some of our leading market gardeners. Of elaborate, fancy, and therefore expensive structures, I shall not speak. Cheapness in construction of his buildings and in their operation must always be a leading consideration with the average market gardener, but he can combine quite a large element of convenience and comfort with it. If he values convenience sufficiently to forego for its sake slight advantages of economy, the cold house, which I have previously described as "a model of cheapness and convenience," can easily be arranged for a forcing house as already suggested. When run as a regular hot-house, for forcing lettuce, strawberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc., during the winter, more heat and consequently more piping or greater boiler capacity will be required than if used merely as related for the cold house, but for the purposes of propagating and plant growing, it will certainly be preferable to have the whole system of heating pipes underground, in order to warm the soil somewhat in the congenial fashion of the manure hot-bed. In growing plants for sale, we consider the root the chief part, and for root development bottom heat is essential. With lettuce and spinach, and all the other forcing crops except radishes, the grower wants top, and is not in the least concerned about the root, and in that case he will prefer to let the heat come upon his plants from above, in the natural way. It is a general principle that bottom heat favors root growth, heat from above top growth, and we must make our arrangements in accordance with the intended use of the forcing house.

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Economy and absolute safety will always be the weightiest considerations with market gardeners. I think the great merits or advantages of the hot-houses or forcing pits in use, for instance, by my friend, Mr. Theo. F. Baker, of Cumberland County, N. J., and of the similar structure erected by Mr. R. Bingham, of Camden, N. J., will be readily appreciated by every reader, and give many of them a clue to the satisfactory solution of the problem : How shall I build a hot-house ?

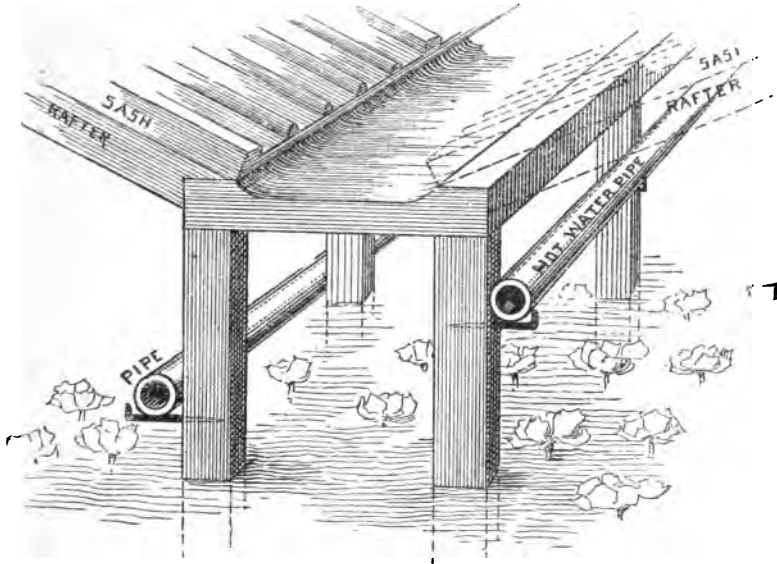
THE MODEL FORCING PIT.—A sectional view of the most sensible forcing pit yet constructed is here presented, the greatest difference in outward appearance between it and the cold-house shown on page 68, being in the arrangement of the sashes. In the cold-house, as described, the four tiers of sashes form a single roof and a single building, while the sash arrangement in



Market Gardener's Forcing Pit—Sectional View.

our forcing pit divides the house in two sections lengthwise, making, we might say, two parallel buildings of it, the roof of each being formed by two single tiers of sashes. In the former we had a pathway in the centre of house, and an opportunity to walk all over, and work upon the beds. The forcing pit, on the other hand, has two alleys or walks (AA), one under the centre of each roof, dug into the ground 18 inches wide, and 18 inches deep; and standing in these the operator, reaching over to each side, in same way as in any green-house, manipulates the beds and plants. The sides of the alleys are either walled or boarded up. The beds or "benches," as in the cold-house, are even with the surface of the ground, but the glass is pretty close to them, as the peak of the roofs is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the level of the ground, and consequently 6 feet from the bottom of the alleys. The sashes should be 7 or $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and of any convenient width, although the common size of hot-bed sash (3 by 6) might

be made to answer. Large-sized glass is preferable, say 12 by 16 inches. The sides, consisting of boards nailed to stakes, double if possible and banked up, are only one foot from level of ground to eaves. The width of the whole double structure is 26 feet. In the centre, at B, where the two roof sections meet, the sashes rest on a plate or plank 2 inches thick and 12 inches wide, gathered out $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 inches to catch and carry off the water, and these centre planks, as shown in engraving, rest upon



Centre Plank and Support.

two rows of 2 by 3 inch posts, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and 12 inches above the beds. These posts in each row are 4 feet apart.

METHODS OF HEATING THE PIT.—The old method of heating by means of a brick (or similar) flue has a slight saving in the expense of construction in its favor, but it requires a much greater running expense, especially in the items of fuel and attendance. Hot-water and steam heating give us superior advantages for the one single drawback of greater cost of construction, to such an extent, indeed, that the gardener who lays the least claim to progressiveness, has only his choice between the hot-water and the steam system. While the battle between the advocates of hot water and those of steam is still raging, I can state it as a fact, that either method may be made use of with perfect success. Florists and gardeners who work on a very extensive scale, and can afford to employ a night watchman, generally favor the steam system, and claim that it

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not only saves fuel, but also gives the operator better control of the heat, since there is but very little of it stored up in the circulation; but nearly everybody admits that hot water is preferable for small houses, especially on account of safety, the pipes distributing heat just as long as the water in the boiler is hot, whether actually boiling or not. From the standpoint of the average market gardener, who has but a few thousand square feet under glass at most, I have no objection to the heat stored up in circulation by the hot-water system, especially since any objection can be partly if not wholly met by the insertion of a single stop-cock into the pipes at any place. This gives the operator power over the circulation. When the temperature in the house is getting up higher than it is desired, the circulation can at once be interrupted by turning the stop-cock, and the whole pipe system will cool off, although not as fast as in steam heating, yet fast enough for the purpose. The advocates of steam always talk as if the whole heat supply of the boiler had to be exhausted before the pipes could be cooled off, while the use of the simple expedient spoken of really leaves the difference between the heat stored up in the circulation of the one and that in the other system very inconsiderable.

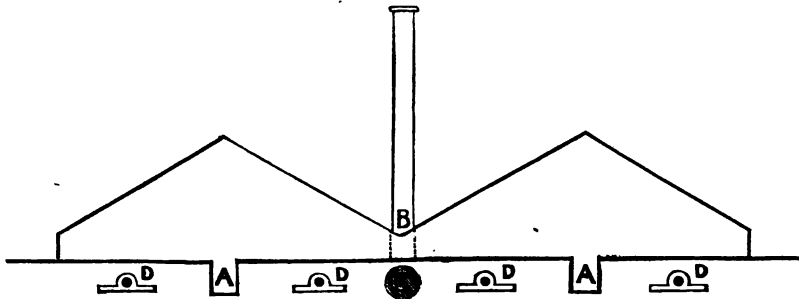
My own preference is for hot water; but the use of a large boiler with low pressure will render steam heating also perfectly safe and probably satisfactory; only be sure to have the boiler low enough, the chimney high enough, and the pipes at such gradual inclination from the boiler upwards, that the condensed water will freely return to the boiler and not accumulate in any part of the pipes. If the latter is the case, the trouble makes itself known by what is generally termed "hammering," which is a sound repeated at regular intervals somewhat like that made by striking a hard article against the pipe. The use of steam also involves a smaller outlay than that of hot water, since one-inch pipes will do, and are often preferred for the one system, while two-inch pipes are usually considered the smallest suitable for the other.

The boilers used for steam heating are generally bought second-hand, of four or five-horse power, such as have faithfully served for high pressure, and are condemned for that purpose. Hot-water and steam furnaces and boilers of any desired size, from the simple self-feeding, base-burning water heater, to that for heating buildings covering many thousands of square feet, may be bought at reasonable figures from manufacturing firms who make a specialty of them, as Hitchings & Co., of New York City, and others.

MR. BAKER'S METHOD OF HEATING.—Mr. Baker's forcing pit is constructed on the plan given on page 74, 26 feet wide by

100 feet in length. The boiler is a second-hand four or five-horse power, and at an outside temperature of zero has to carry about 5 pounds of steam in order to maintain a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees inside. Two-inch pipes conduct the heat from the boiler, one line of pipe running up on each side of the house, and both returning through the centre back to the boiler. The furnace room is an excavation 10 feet by 12 feet, and 6 feet deep at the north or northwest end of the house, walled up or cemented, and covered with a roof. Length of pipe required is 450 feet. The entire cost of a structure of these dimensions, boiler and pipes included, amounts to \$450 for the material, to which the cost of steam-fitting by a plumber will have to be added. Any man of ordinary intelligence can do all the rest of the work on the house.

For the purpose of vegetable forcing, the pipes are laid all above ground, as shown at *E* and *B* page 74. If wanted for starting seedlings, and for general propagating purposes, however, the pipe had better be placed from 10 to 12 inches under the



Mr. Bingham's Method of Heating.

surface, encased in an ordinary 3-inch drain tile, as shown at *D*, or perhaps still better in the manner employed in Mr. Bingham's house, and shown on this page. Mr. Baker tells me that he has been most successful in growing lettuce, radishes and such vegetables by running the pipes above the benches, fastened to the outside posts, and in the centre the same way, thus heating the air and letting it warm up the soil in Nature's own way, rather than drive out the moisture by bottom heat, which he thinks is the chief cause of "damping off" and of mildew.

MR. BINGHAM'S METHOD OF HEATING.—The house here shown is constructed exactly like the one shown and described on page 74, but 124 feet in length. The paths or alleys *A A* are somewhat narrower so that the outside benches are 5 feet 8 inches in width. The boiler is second-handed, with upright flues and 19-inch grate, rated four-horse power. The direct heat from the furnace is perfectly utilized by means of an under-

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ground terra-cotta flue *C*, 10 inch diameter, which runs from the boiler room to the smoke stack *B* at the north end. The steam pipes are placed from 18 inches to 6 inches under the centre of each bench, as shown in *DDDD*, resting on a concrete and covered with a 5-inch horse-shoe tile. The concrete is made of one part Portland cement and 5 parts gravel, laid two feet wide and two inches in thickness. Two lines of 1- or 1¼-inch pipe under each bench would be an improvement, but the heat radiation is good, and the surface of the benches warmed pretty uniformly, certainly much more so than by Mr. Baker's plan of simply encasing the 2-inch pipe with a 3-inch tile. With the hot-water system the distance of underground pipes from the surface should be more uniform, but a double line of pipes in this case is still more desirable.

While theory and the opinion of expert growers gives preference to heating from above ground for forcing purposes, Mr. Bingham has, practically, most excellent success with the underground system. "The ground is thoroughly warmed several inches deep," says Mr. B., "and retains the heat much better than the air, which comes in contact with the cold glass. By keeping our source of heat lower, we get a much larger per cent. of its value than by air-heating systems. Theoretically we claim to save 50 per cent. of heat which is wasted by other plans, and our trial has practically proved it." This is a matter yet open for investigation; but in the meantime it will be advisable to place the pipes in the cheaper, handier and entirely safe way in use in Mr. Baker's forcing houses, when the house is intended chiefly or wholly for forcing vegetables. There is no objection, however, to introducing the underground system for one of the benches, as shown at *D*, page 74, mainly for plant growing and propagating purposes, as also to try forcing for the comparison of results between the two systems.

Provision has to be made for ventilation. The simplest method consists in hinging every alternate outside sash, so that it can be lifted, or in arranging it as explained for the cold plant house, allowing every alternate outside sash to slide down or be removed entirely. Mr. Bingham's house is also constructed in such a way that the caps, rafters and sashes can be entirely taken off during the warm season, and stored in a convenient place under shelter. At the approach of another forcing season, the benches can thus be enriched and otherwise prepared for cropping as easily and conveniently as beds in the open ground.

I do not think that a simpler, cheaper, and safer forcing house could be conceived than one built on the same general principles here described. It combines the best features of the hot-bed and the greenhouse, and will tend to elevate the undertaking of growing vegetables and plants during the winter and early spring

from drudgery to be dreaded to a pastime and pleasure. The cost of heating a house of this kind is inconsiderable—a few tons of coal go a great ways, and the management of the furnace is so simple that any boy can tend it. The vegetable crops are grown in the same way as described for the hot-beds. Lettuce is the first crop, and can be gotten ready for market from Christmas on. This is followed by radishes, or any other vegetable which the market may usually call for, or by strawberries, and perhaps later on, by egg-plants, tomatoes, peppers, etc. Boston Market, a strain of Tennis Ball, is yet considered the safest lettuce variety for early winter forcing. Mildew and aphids (or green louse) are the two dreaded enemies of the crop, and must be fought with the means named in the chapter on “Insects and Plant Diseases.”

CHAPTER XV.

EARLY PLANTS FOR THE HOME GARDEN.

VARIOUS MEANS AND DEVICES FOR EVERYBODY.

"A will—a way."

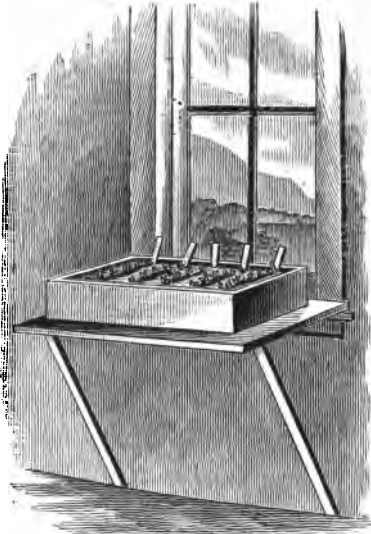


FOR the average-sized kitchen garden only a comparatively very small number of early plants are needed, so few, indeed, that people often come to the conclusion it is cheaper to buy them than to raise them, especially when plants are to be had as cheap as they are now. Yet we cannot always, nor even often, get what we want. Professional plant-growers frequently are very careless about the seeds they sow. The plants are for sale, and a tomato plant will sell, if well grown, no matter what fruit it will produce afterwards. So in the purchase of plants we always run a risk, and at best have to deal with uncertainties. Then we may wish to try a new tomato, or pepper, or egg-plant, etc., and plants of high-priced novelties cannot often be purchased. Furthermore, while poor plants, grown in crowded hot-beds, and consisting of much stalk and little root, are abundant and cheap, really first-class, well-grown, well-rooted and well-hardened plants are generally rare, always dear, and often not on sale. Take it on the whole, therefore, I think every home gardener who takes the least interest in his garden, will of necessity have to dabble in the business of plant growing. He can go at it in a variety of ways.

Where a sunny kitchen window is at disposal for the purpose, some tomato, pepper and egg-plants can easily be started in a box or in boxes placed in front of it, as shown in illustration. A common soap box, obtained from the nearest grocer will furnish material for two or three such boxes. Suitable soil is prepared by mixing one-third of well-rotted compost and two-thirds sandy loam or rich garden soil, and of course it should be got in readiness in the autumn before the ground freezes. The boxes are filled with this nearly to the top, and the seeds sowed thinly in shallow furrows. Each variety should be plainly labelled, or the name written on outside of box facing each row. Sift a little sandy loam, leaf mould or pulverized dried peat moss upon the seeds, pat it down gently to firm the seed, then water with

Early Plants for the Home Garden.—81

hot water from a fine rose sprinkler, and as often afterwards with tepid water as the soil becomes dry, and needs it. Thus treated the young plants should make their appearance in about a week's time. A few cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce plants may be grown in a similar way, but the box should be set in a colder room, or in a less sunny exposure. It generally falls to the lot of the good housewife to care for such plant boxes, and in most cases she will enjoy the task. The chief aim must be to make the plants strong and stocky by giving each sufficient space, and thin out the surplus at an early stage of development. Tall, over-grown things are not desirable. Where there is sufficient window room, and if possible, any way, the plants should be transplanted once or twice, and more space given at each time. Nothing is more servicable than empty tomato cans (with a hole punched in the bottom) for setting in tomato and egg plants, one in each, from there to be transplanted to the open ground. The true lover of a good garden, and the man who has a large family to supply with vegetables, will sorely miss the convenience and aid of a hot-bed, and the best thing for him to do is to invest the amount of \$4.00 or \$6.00 in sashes, and put up a little frame. The excavation may be made for only one-half or two-thirds of the bed, if this is three sashes in size, so that a part of it is managed as hot-bed, and the other as cold frame. Plants must be ranged according to their degree of tenderness, and beginning at the hot-bed end, as follows: egg-plant, pepper, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce;



Plant Box in Window.

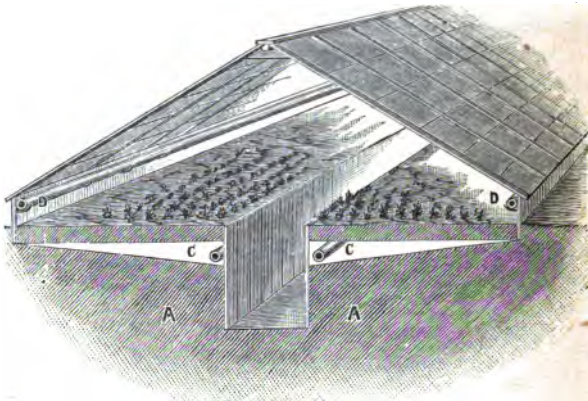
and ventilation given more freely and frequently on the cold frame side than on the other. For directions as to general management I can only refer the reader to Chapters X and XI.

The well-to-do home gardener who can afford to spend a little time and money for the privilege of running a miniature green-house or forcing pit, which will not only give him an abundance of plants such as he may desire, but also a chance to raise a few nice, crisp vegetables in the winter months, may construct a building, answering one of the two sections of the forcing pit described in preceding chapter. Such structure is here shown, and will need no detailed explanation. Hot water

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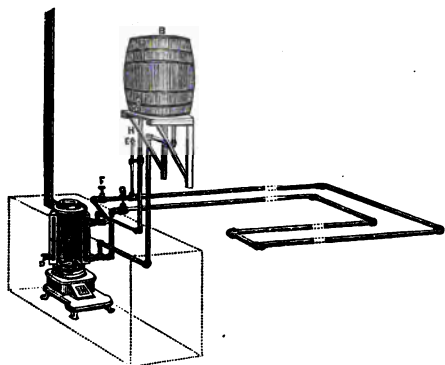
will be found the proper method of heating, and a base-burning water heater that manufacturers furnish for from \$25.00 upwards, will do good service.

The people of Hammonton, New Jersey, use a boiler of this kind for heating the brooders in their chicken houses, and it may be arranged somewhat in the same manner, and as shown in next figure. When the house is all made snug and tight, and where winters are not exceedingly severe, it seems that a single pipe for each bench, either in an air-chamber under it to provide bottom heat, or near the outside would be fully sufficient.



Amateur Green-House.

To make the arrangement perfectly clear, I will say that the barrel *B* is used merely to give pressure to the water in the stove; *C* is the faucet for drawing water from the barrel; *D* the faucet for emptying water out of stove, pipes and barrels. *E* is a cock for letting out air from the pipes in order to prevent it from interfering with the water circulation. *F* and *G* are cocks by which the connection between stove and water pipes can be broken.



Base-burning Water Heater and Arrangement of Pipes.

As simple as it is, sometimes may come handy, even if not entirely necessary for the regular purpose of green-house heating.

CHAPTER XVI.

DRAINAGE.

WHERE NEEDED AND HOW DONE.

"The ability to overcome obstacles is a certain guarantee of success."

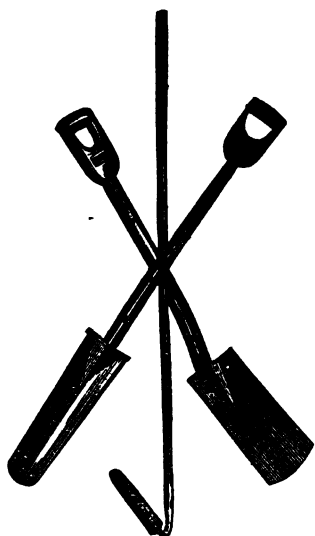


THE best garden soil—that adapted for the production of early vegetables, and composed of a dark, sandy loam resting on a porous subsoil—needs no artificial drainage. My experience with red sandy subsoil in New Jersey was highly satisfactory. The soil water moves freely up and down through subsoil of this character, and the air has a chance to warm it deeply and quickly. The possession of such land (without a single under-drain on it) gives advantages against which the proprietor of clayey loam underlaid with stiff blue clay will find it utterly impossible to compete successfully, no matter how much money he may expend for drainage. Whatever may be said in favor or greater fertility and the retentiveness of clayey loam, and the leachy character of "lighter" soil, the fact remains that vegetables grown on the former will be days if not weeks later than on the latter. This only shows the importance of selecting a more or less sandy loam with porous subsoil for general gardening purposes, and of steering entirely clear of clay on clay foundation. Muck resting upon blue clay meets with the same objection. Still such cooler soils, when properly drained, can generally be utilized with advantage for certain crops, such as for instance, onions and celery. If a piece of such land belonging to the gardener is yet in an undrained condition, he should lose no time to make it available, and often exceedingly profitable by preparing a thorough system of drainage. In some cases an otherwise fine garden soil is underlaid with a fairly porous loam which, however, offers some obstruction to the free passage of surface water. Then drainage will improve it wonderfully, and perhaps render it equal to the best garden land in earliness and productiveness.

The first concern is to find an outlet $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet below the lowest part of the field, as a starting point for the main ditch that is to be carried right along the lowest line of the surface across the whole field, with a gradual rise of not less than

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$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (more is better) to the rod. The laterals begin from this main, are 2 or $2\frac{1}{4}$ rods apart, and closer if it can be afforded or is thought necessary, 3 to 4 feet in depth, and also rise gradually at least $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch to the rod. As the only object is to place the tiles into the bottom, we have no need for wide ditches, and in order to save labor, aim to make them as narrow as possible. With the improved ditching tools now on sale in every hardware store, such drains can be cut quite conveniently to the depth of 4 feet with only one foot across on top and 6 inches at the bottom. The work is begun with common spade,



Set of Draining Tools.

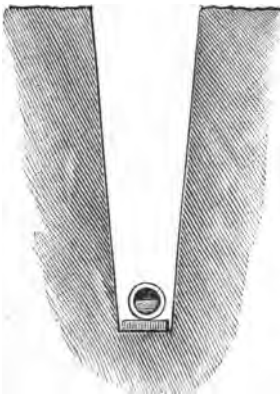
the whole matter must dictate the details, and will be found a safe guide throughout.

SIZE OF TILES.—The amount of water that runs off in an even and continuous stream, after the first rush from the newly ditched field, determines the size of tile. Two-inch tile are generally preferable for the lateral drains, while the main must have a size fully capable of carrying off the water that collects from the laterals above, at the time of greatest supply. The flow from a well-arranged system of underground drains, when in perfect working order, is pretty nearly uniform through the whole year, only of greater volume in winter than in summer. For water containing iron larger sizes are necessary, as the deposits adhere, and are liable to fill up the tile after awhile. The extreme upper end of the main, for a short distance, may be arranged as a lateral, and laid with small tile, but it should then be made larger by using

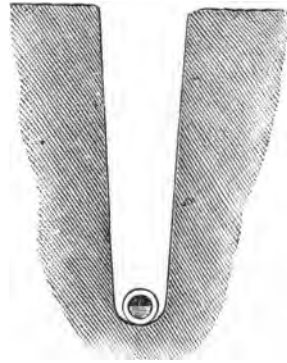
common plow and subsoil plow; but the last 12 inches of depth are dug with the long narrow spade shown at the left in engraving, and the finishing touches given with the draining scoop shown in centre of same figure. This scoop, which is drawn towards the operator, only finishes the perfect cleaning out of the bottom, correcting faulty grade, etc., and leaves a concave bed for the tile. Scoops of this kind are made in different sizes to fit the tile. Too much care cannot be bestowed on the grading. To secure perfect working order, and durability of the drains, their every part should have a slight incline towards the outlet; and everything that might tend to obstruct the continuous flow of water in the tiles must be carefully guarded against. Common sense in

3 or 4-inch tile, and for the lower half or one-third 6-inch and perhaps even larger sizes may be necessary. The number and length of laterals, and amount of water passing through them, determines this question.

LAYING THE TILES.—Next to perfect grading of the bottom, the effectiveness and permanency of the whole draining operation depends on the careful laying of the tiles. The work should never be entrusted to a raw hand, unless the latter is endowed with an unusual amount of common sense, skill and intelligence. It is much safer to employ a man used to such work, and pay him good wages by the day, not by the rod or job. It is not safe to run the least risk of having this important job slighted. Laying the tile should follow immediately upon the levelling (grading) of the bottom, and in order to perform this task without stepping into the ditch, a six foot pole with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch iron rod fastened to the end and bent in the form of an elbow, is used to handle section



Tile on Soft Bottom.



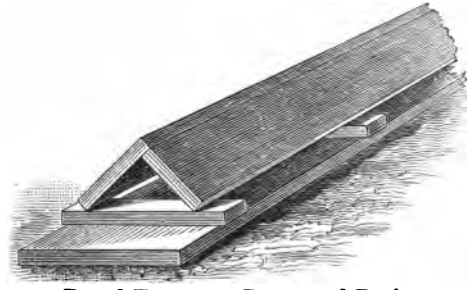
Tile on Clay Bottom.

after section of tile, and placing it in its proper place. The ends should be closely fitted together, and clay subsoil firmly packed around them to hold them in their place, until the ditches can be filled up again to the top. Fine surface soil or anything that will decay, should not be put immediately in contact with the tiles. It is also essential that the point of discharge in the laterals should be a few inches above the level of the main, to insure a good flow. It is obvious that the tile can be laid directly upon the bottom of the ditch when the subsoil is perfectly hard and solid, especially if of stiff clay. Soft muck or quicksand in the bottom of drains makes it necessary to rest the tiles upon a line of narrow (6 inch) boards placed in the drain, as here illustrated. In some instances tile cannot be readily obtained, at least not without paying heavy transportation expenses, and other means

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of constructing the drain have to be found. I have used board troughs with excellent results. The poorest kind of lumber may be utilized for this purpose. Two boards are nailed together at right angles, and held firmly in place by strips nailed diagonally across. Such troughs may be placed directly upon a carefully-graded, hard, stiff clay bottom, or upon a line of boards placed upon soft bottom, in same way as the tile. Stones and pebbles, where plentiful, can be used to good advantage also; but to get a properly constructed drain with such material, the inexperienced owner will always find it safest and cheapest to have the work done by somebody that understands it. Tile is always best, and drains thus made will be of more lasting value. All stone drains are quite liable to get choked up after awhile, since it is almost impossible to keep the soil from washing and working among the stones, and finally fill up the throat.

THE ADVANTAGES OF UNDERDRAINING.—As one of the most beneficial results of good underdraining on many soils, the crops are given more root room. The roots of almost all our garden



Board Trough in Bottom of Drain.

crops (and field crops also) thrive in moist soil, but not in that which is wet or water-logged, and they are stopped when they come to the soil water. Underdraining lowers the soil water level, allows the roots to go deeper, and therefore gives them more room to work in. Each plant needs a certain amount or weight of soil for its best development. If it can feed deeper it will not require as much surface, and hence plants in well-drained soil can be planted closer than in undrained land. But good drainage gives still other benefits. It warms the soil by admitting air more freely, lengthens the season at both ends, and by promoting the circulation of air and moisture, furnishes chances for chemical action by which insoluble plant food is rendered available.

But, after all, tile drains, if ever so well laid, cannot be expected to last forever, and often they give out quite unexpectedly, making it necessary to take up parts of them for repairs. In an emergency of this kind it is quite convenient to know the exact location of every drain, and to be able to find it without having to dig over a large area. A map showing the location of every tile drain put down, with distances marked in rods and feet, will be of great advantage, and a valuable assistance sooner or later.

CHAPTER XVII.

IRRIGATION.

SURFACE-SOAKING AND SUB-EARTH FLOODING.

"More powerful than art is Nature."



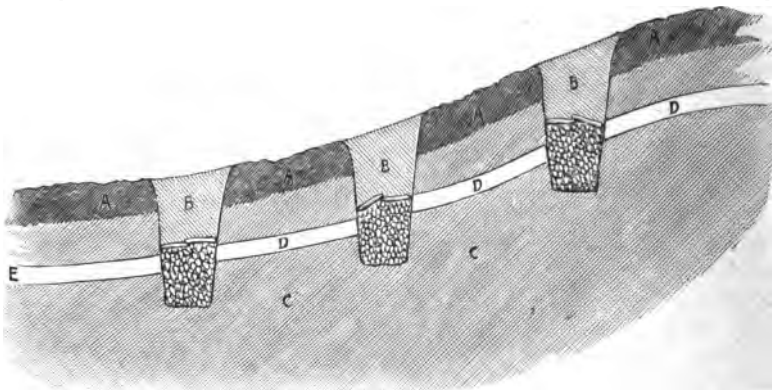
IRRIGATION, while a necessary and common practice under the rainless skies near the Pacific coast, is hardly ever thought of at the east. I have made a few trials on a somewhat limited scale, and the results fully convinced me that the chances are not rare where the eastern gardener might employ some system of irrigation with as telling effect. The first requisite, of course, is a sufficient water supply, one which can be controlled or made available without great expense. The amount of liquid needed for thorough work—and this alone gives satisfactory results—is so immensely large, that I have little respect for any source of supply of less magnitude than a pond or small stream. I cannot do better than quote from a paper read before the American Horticultural Society, by Mr. J. M. Smith, Wisconsin's noted and successful gardener, and President of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society: "A few things should be remembered by those who contemplate artificial watering. Suppose that you have one acre of cabbage that you wish to water. To do this fairly well requires at least 30,000 gallons of water, and this will need to be repeated at least once a week until rain comes. To make strawberries do their best in dry weather, requires considerably more than for cabbages, and to be put on oftener. To merely sprinkle the ground when it is very dry, is, in my opinion, a damage rather than a benefit. It has a tendency to form a thin, hard crust, both air- and water-tight. Neither the damp air nor the rains will pass through it, neither will a light shower. It requires a heavy rain to dissolve it. Thus you shut out the benefits to be derived from the cool, damp night air, the heavy dews that we often have, also the little sprinkles of rain that are almost sure to come occasionally. For a couple of years after my water-works were put up, I was at a loss to understand why our watering had so little effect. I had a piece of early cabbage that was suffering for want of rain. The men were told to put on water until the ground was thoroughly soaked for at least six inches deep. They

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did so, and I learned two things by it. One was that a thorough watering would make the plants grow; the other was that it took a great deal of water to make it thorough.

"Hence if you water at all, do it well. No system of artificial watering that I have ever tried is equal to rain from the clouds. I do not state these things to discourage any one, but because I believe them to be facts that should be known to those who contemplate some improvements of this kind. My water-works cost me nearly \$1,000, and I have no doubt but that they have more than once paid for themselves in a single season."

Where a pond or other body of water is available, so that a stream can be run directly to the highest line of the field, irrigation is a very simple matter. Make light furrows down the slope, 8 or 10 feet apart, between the rows of plants, and let the water run down in one after another, long enough in each, to soak up the ground pretty thoroughly to the lower end, before turning



Slope Sub-irrigated after Cole's method.

off the flow into the next furrow. The application should not (or need not) be repeated until the ground becomes quite dry again, but it is absolutely necessary for best results, and lasting effects of the operation, to cultivate the ground thoroughly just as soon as the surface is again dry enough for such work. Always make the water channels in the higher places, and the lower ones are apt to take care of themselves. In irrigating a $\frac{1}{8}$ acre lot of celery one season, between 6,000 and 8,000 gallons of water were needed to give the ground one thorough soaking, but this had a most excellent effect on the plants.

SUB-IRRIGATION.—Another system often mentioned but rarely employed, is that of placing tiles in close, parallel, shallow ditches all through the field, so the tiles are just out of reach of the plow, and then introduce the water from some source into these tiles, one line after another, soaking up the land from below

the surface, otherwise in the same fashion as by surface irrigation. Reports of wonderful crops produced on slopes of soil by no means rich, under a new system called by the inventor (A. N. Cole) "aquaculture" (water culture), or new agriculture, have recently attracted considerable attention; but since this method is quite expensive, and possible only under certain conditions, namely, on a slope with impervious clay subsoil, it is not of general utility, nor excessively meritorious. Mr. Cole gives the following description of it: "A ditch is opened on a water level along the hillside or slope, say a yard wide, and from three to five feet deep. At the bottom of this ditch are loosely placed cobble and blocky stones, for a foot or two, then flat stones are laid over these, then a quantity of smaller stones; these are covered over with weeds, briars, brambles, fine brush, straw, corn stalks or other available material, to prevent the fine earth from falling among and filling the crevices between the stones. A heavy coating of manure may follow, and then the excavated soil is spread over it, and a terrace is graded if desired. Whatever course the trench may take, the surface of the hard pan at the bottom of the ditch must never vary from a water level. A series of such ditches, one above the other, are dug a rod or so apart and similarly filled, over as large a surface as is to be improved, each forming an elongated reservoir which will be filled by the water-courses cut off, or by the melting snows and early rains; and if the subsoil is firm clay, or hard pan, it will be retained, and as the surface soil dries, absorbed by capillary action, and brought within reach of the roots of vegetation.

"The connecting overflow trenches should be in the subsoil, and filled with fine stone to the depth of a foot at least, and shingled with flat stones in the same manner as the reservoir trenches. This shingling should be of sufficient depth to escape the plough or the deepest spading. The head of the overflow trenches at the base of the slope should be at least twelve or eighteen inches above the bottom of the reservoir."

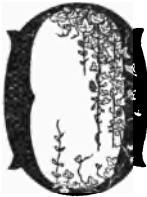
Cross-section of slope thus sub-irrigated is presented in engraving. *A* is the surface soil; *B*, the reservoir trenches; *C*, the sub-soil; *D*, the connecting overflow trenches (which might be laid with tile, where that can be had conveniently and cheaply), and *E*, the outlet of drainage trench. I have given this for information more than in the expectation that many readers will make practical use of it.

CHAPTER XVIII.

INSECTS AND OTHER FOES.

THEIR WAYS OF DOING MISCHIEF AND HOW TO KEEP THEM IN CHECK.

"Eternal Vigilance—the Price."



F all the obstacles to the successful production of choice garden vegetables, none has ever shown itself in a more serious aspect than the multiplication of injurious insects. The problem how to get rid of them often sorely puzzles the ingenuity of even the best gardener. Frequently our plants come up nicely, and we are pleased with their apparent health and thrift, and perhaps pride ourselves on our skill; only to find, at our very next visit to the garden, soon after, that the whole plantation is badly damaged, if not already ruined beyond any chance of recovery, by an unexpected attack of insect foes. Occasionally we have to admit our utter defeat.

The question how to deal with insects is a serious problem. The best of talent has been, and still is, engaged in the attempt to find a satisfactory solution. Columns upon columns on the subject have of late been published by the agricultural press. Lectures upon lectures on insect lore have been delivered by specialists, and bulletin upon bulletin touching upon this matter are issued by the Experiment Stations, and sent out by the thousand, and yet I am asked more questions on "insects and what to do for them," than on any other subject. So I will endeavor to give pretty plain and full instructions.

As a general rule it may be stated that the most satisfactory, and often the only effective measures are those of a preventive character or tendency. The aim should be to keep our crops entirely out of reach or observation by their insect foes, and success in this can more generally and more easily be achieved by a judicious system of rotation ("wide" rotation, as I am tempted to call it), than by the application of drugs, etc. The gardener knows, or should know, the exact location of the breeding places of the various bugs and beetles. Where their food plants had been grown the year before, right there we may confidently expect to see the foes reappear this season. In last year's cabbage and radish patches the flea beetle will be found plentiful this year; and where we had cucumber and squash vines then, we will find the yellow-striped squash beetle, the black

squash bug, etc. Wherever circumstances allow, therefore, each crop should be planted at considerable distance from any place where the same or a similar crop was grown the year before. This practice, although it may not prevent insect visits entirely, must at least put enough of the depredators off the track to materially moderate the amount of damage coming from that source. For the home garden, and for smaller operations generally, such a course cannot often be followed, and other means of protection have to be sought.

Foremost among preventive measures stands the often employed practice of hiding the plants, in boxes or open frames, or under mosquito netting, or by surrounding them with other quicker-growing plants (buckwheat, beans, etc.), which not only serve as a screen, but also disguise their scent. Strong-smelling substances, such as carbolic acid, kerosene, turpentine, etc., are also quite frequently used to hide the natural scent of the exposed plants, thus removing one of the chief means by which insects are enabled to find their food plants. Another quite common preventive consists in covering the endangered plants with some substance (plaster, lime, etc.), that is distasteful to their enemies, and this, unless they come in excessive numbers, or are exceedingly hungry, is often effective in driving them off. Either hand-picking and mashing, or poisoning, must be resorted to where preventives cannot be employed, or have not proven effective. That all the natural enemies of our injurious insects—birds, toads, snakes, cannibal insects, such as the useful and pretty little ladybird, the colosoma (ground or tiger beetle), the soldier bug, etc.—should be encouraged and given shelter, need hardly be mentioned. A list of the most destructive and common insect enemies and the most improved ways of preventing their mischief, will be found in the following :

ANTS (*Formica*).—Although not generally directly destructive to garden vegetables, they are sometimes quite obnoxious in consequence of their manner of throwing up hills. Destroy their nests by pouring boiling water, or hot strong alum water over the hills. The ants can also be trapped very easily by placing a coarse sponge moistened with sweetened water near their haunts, thus attracting them in large numbers. When the sponge is black with the creatures, throw it into boiling water; then wash it out and reset the trap. Poisoned molasses placed near their haunts, will also soon make an end to their existence.

APHIS OR PLANT LOUSE.—Of the hundreds of species of green, black, and blue aphid in existence, quite a number are troublesome to the gardener. Fortunately the whole tribe is quite tender; and lettuce, cabbages and cauliflowers seriously infested, perhaps almost wholly covered by these lice, are sometimes entirely cleared of them by a cold spell or a hard rain, etc., and

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for this reason their injury to such crops in the open ground is less feared and serious than to those under glass, where they often become a real source of danger.

In tobacco we have a simple preventive and remedy. Apply tobacco dust freely, both directly to the soil, as a means of prevention, and upon the infested plants as a cure. Strong tobacco tea, made by steeping tobacco stems in water, if sprinkled or sprayed on plants, will also quickly rid them of lice. Fumigation (burning dampened tobacco stems two or three times a week) is quite generally practiced, and universally successful as a preventive measure in greenhouse culture.

A simple and effective remedy for this and other injurious insects is the kerosene emulsion, made by churning one quart of soft soap (or one quarter pound of whale-oil soap), one pint of

kerosene oil, and two quarts of water, until a perfect union or emulsion is formed. The operation of churning can be performed in an easy and convenient manner by the use of a good force pump, forcing the liquid back into the vessel containing it. The emulsion should be diluted with two gallons of water, and applied with a force pump and spray nozzle over the infested plants. The fine spray makes the operation economical as well as safe, and if thrown with sufficient force, is more liable to touch all lice. It is sure to kill eggs as well as lice.



Asparagus Beetle, Larva and Egg.

ASPARAGUS BEETLE (*Creoceris asparagi*)—An asparagus branch infested with this comparatively new insect enemy in its different stages of development, natural size, with enlarged specimen of beetle and larva at the lower right hand corner, is here shown. This insect has a natural enemy in the cat-bird, which feeds on both beetles and larvæ, and sometimes greatly reduces their number. Dusting the infested plants when wet with dew, with air-slacked lime on a quiet morning, is probably the simplest, and a reason-

ably sure remedy. Hand-picking is a rather tedious operation, and only practicable in a small patch. Cutting the affected tops, removing and burning them is often practiced with good effect. Dusting with tobacco dust, or spraying with the kerosene emulsion, are also reasonably safe remedies.

BEAN WEEVIL (*Bruchus obsoletus*).—This insect has become a really more formidable foe to the grower of beans, peas, and other leguminous plants, than even its much larger relative, the pea weevil. It devours the seeds of nearly all plants of the pulse family with apparent equal relish, but is easily enough managed. Simply throw the beans or peas as soon as gathered and threshed for a few seconds into boiling water. This will kill the larvæ of either weevil contained in them. Seed beans and peas should always be treated in this way to guard against injury to the next crop. Old seed is always free from bugs, and by its use all danger of carrying the pest to new fields in the seed is averted. It may be a good plan to tie up beans and peas intended for seed tightly and securely in stout paper bags, and to keep them over without opening the bags, until the second year. The bugs will then have died without living issue. The larvæ can also be destroyed by exposing the seeds in a closed vessel, box or barrel, to the fumes of turpentine, or bisulphide of carbon, or by mixing with them a small quantity of fresh insect powder.

The Ohio Experiment Station finds that the exposure of the infested seed for one hour to a temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit destroys the larvæ without injuring the germinative quality of the seed. An ordinary gasoline stove oven, with a lighted kerosene lamp beneath it, was used in conducting the experiments. Only a very small flame is needed to produce the required amount of heat. To be of most benefit, this remedy must be applied as soon as possible after the beans or peas are fully ripe.

CABBAGE PLUSIA (sometimes called green lettuce worm).—It is the caterpillar of a pretty moth (*Plusia Brassicæ*), and sometimes does serious injury to cabbage, lettuce, celery, endive, sage and some flowers. It is a ravenous eater, and in cabbages and lettuce bores clear through to the hearts, and prefers to feed from the inside rather than the outside. For this reason it is not so easily reached with insecticides as the green cabbage worm. Try buhach and careful hand picking.

CABBAGE MAGGOT.—See Radish Fly.

CABBAGE WORM.—The larva of the cabbage butterfly (*Pieris raphæ*), shown on next page, has for many years been the most serious obstacle to the home production of cabbages, and yet few insect foes are so easily kept in check as this. The butterfly is double-brooded. The first brood is seen flitting about

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the fields in May, the second in August, and the progeny of the latter causes the most trouble.

The sovereign remedy for this pest is fresh *Pyrethrum* powder, generally called Persian or Dalmatian insect powder. The imported article, when in full strength, is perfectly reliable, but when stale (and this is the usual condition of the powder on sale in drug stores) gives rather uncertain results. Buhach is a California product, the ground flower of *Pyrethrum cinerariaefolium*, generally fresh, and put up in tight tin cans, and in my experience has never failed to give entire satisfaction. While the imported article

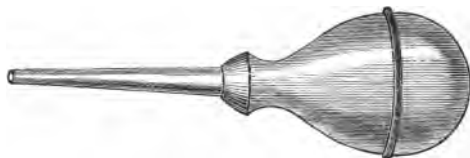


Butterfly of the Cabbage Worm.

may be bought for less money, pound for pound, the California product, on account of greater strength and certain death-dealing effect, is by far the cheaper in the end, and every gardener should try to get buhach in preference to the common insect powder.

The remedy can be applied in various ways. When to be used in liquid form, take a tablespoonful of the pure powder, and with a little water work it into a paste, then dilute with two gallons of water, and sprinkle it on the plants with a watering pot, or still better, apply in a fine spray with considerable force, so that every worm will be reached.

A very convenient mode of application for the home garden is that in dry form, by means of a simple dusting apparatus or pocket rubber bellows, as for instance shown in illustration. This,



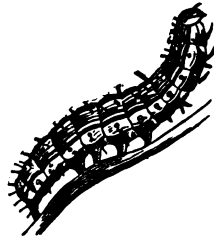
Simple Powder Bellows.

or a similar and just as effectual one, can undoubtedly be had of our friend, Wm. Henry Maule, of Philadelphia, Pa., or most other seedsmen, at a mere nominal price. During the summer months I generally carry one of the bellows charged with a mixture of one part of buhach, and four or five of flour or air-slacked lime in my pocket, and apply a few puffs here and there, wherever I notice the effects of cabbage or similar worms. That puts a sudden stop to their mischief. The whole matter is so simple, inexpensive and certain, and requiring so little time or effort, that I would hardly give any man 10 cents to insure me perfect immunity from worms for each 100 head of cabbages.

When we have at hand a remedy so highly effective and satisfactory as buhach, there is absolutely no reason why we should search for other means, and I believe it is simply fooling away time to experiment with hot water, ice water, solutions of saltpetre or alum, or with pepper, road dust, or the many other remedies of like nature recommended. Mr. A. S. Fuller also reports that he has had the very best success in killing the worms by sprinkling the infested plants with tar water.

CELERY WORM.—The caterpillars found on celery, parsley, etc., which are the progeny of the asterias butterfly (*Papilio asterias*) can be got rid of by the remedies recommended for the cabbage worm; but since they are hardly ever numerous, I have always disposed of them by hand-picking.

CORN OR BOLL WORM (*Heliothis armigera*).—The moth of this, like the cabbage butterfly, is double-brooded; the first brood generally attacking the very early varieties of sweet and other corn varieties, and the second brood doing considerable damage to the late varieties, so that the intermediate sorts usually escape altogether. The fruit of tomatoes, bean and pea pods, and vine fruits are also occasionally attacked. The only remedy that promises relief, is to hand-pick the first brood of larvæ, found on early sweet corn, and to destroy them, thereby rendering the attacks of the subsequent brood less serious. It is sometimes recommended to bait and catch (drown) the moths by means of a mixture of molasses and vinegar.



Corn, Boll or Cotton Worm.

CUCUMBER BEETLE (*Diabrotica vittata*).—Of all the insects in the garden, the little creature that wears a yellow-striped suit, and troubles young cucumber, melon, squash and pumpkin plants is probably the worst, and difficult to deal with. Hiding away



Frame for Protecting Young Vines.

the whole patch so the beetles cannot easily find it, by changing location (the "wide rotation" spoken of) is yet one of the very best methods; but this cannot well be practiced in the home garden, and here we may often adopt the plan of hiding away individual plants or hills, either by placing a simple frame or bottomless box around them, as here illustrated, or by covering them with muslin-covered plant protectors, or with little pieces of muslin fastened down to the ground at the four

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corners, or by similar devices. A ring of buckwheat or beans sown around the vines when the latter are planted, is another expedient sometimes employed for the purpose of hiding the vines. The period of danger is only while the plants are young, especially in seed-leaf, and our first aim should be to push the plants by rich stimulating food, liquid manuring, if needed, past the stage when they are liable to ruinous attacks.

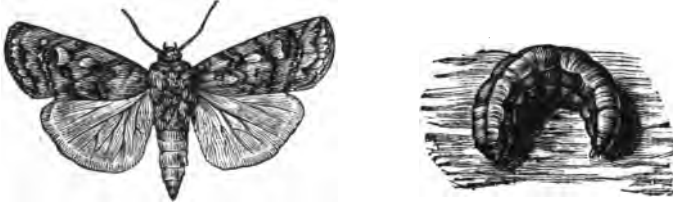
The young plants are so tender and succulent, and there is so little of them, that the first visit of a number of striped beetles usually means little less than destruction to the victims. Treatment must positively be begun in advance of the insects' first appearance.

The usual method, suited especially for larger plantations, but having considerable merit for the home garden also, consists in keeping the plants from the day they first begin to break ground until they are beyond the period of danger, well covered with plaster or bone dust. The coating must be renewed promptly whenever washed off by rains or heavy dews. Air-slacked lime is sometimes used, but it is always risky, on account of its still caustic nature. In all cases where plaster is made to serve as insect repeller, I would prefer to have it flavored with carbolic acid, by mixing a pint of the crude article with a bushel of plaster. The acid can do no possible harm, and it always adds to the effectiveness of plaster or air-slacked lime.

Another equally meritorious remedy is the following: Mix a tablespoonful of kerosene in two quarts of plaster, sifted wood ashes, or bone flour, rubbing it with the hands until the oil is well distributed, then sprinkle this over the vines, and repeat as often as required. It is also worth while to try this trick of repelling the marauders by placing little heaps of ashes, saturated with kerosene, turpentine, or carbolic acid, or pieces of corn-cobs, soaked in coal tar, among the vines to be protected. Should the insects find the vines in spite of all precautions, we yet have a remedy to apply, and this consists in spraying the vines with a weak solution of Paris green at the rate of 15 gallons of water to one ounce of poison. Apply in a fine spray, so that the poisonous liquid will reach the upper and lower surfaces of every leaf, and the stems also. If a spraying apparatus is not at hand, a small quantity of poison may be mixed with the plaster or bone dust, and applied dry.

CUT WORMS (*Agrotis*).—A large number of species of cut worms make themselves highly obnoxious to the gardener by the impudence with which they attack and cut down almost every kind of newly-set plants. They are mostly clumsy and greasy-looking caterpillars of some dull shade of color (grayish, brown, greenish), remain in their hiding places on bright days, and come to the surface at night or in cloudy weather, to seek

what green stuff they can devour. The illustration presents both worm and moth of one of the species.



Cut Worm—Moth and Larva.

Fortunately these worms have many natural enemies; among them the robin, thrushes, quail, wren and other birds, toads, etc., which together keep their numbers down quite well. Fall plowing serves to bring many of the worms to the surface, and to expose them to "bird's-eye view" and perhaps to destruction by frost.

The fresh effects of their night's work can best be noticed bright and early in the morning, and they can then be found near the place of mischief, hunted up and killed. Before a piece of plowed ground is planted, we can often dispose of the majority of the worms by placing pieces of sod, sprinkled with a poisonous solution, at regular intervals over the ground. The remedy is simple, and may be repeated, thus making the way clear for setting plants. Beans are sometimes planted for bait, and in advance of the real crop, whatever that may be. The field is looked over on several mornings after the beans are up and the worms hunted up where plants are seen cut off. The regular crop is planted after most of the worms are destroyed. A practice often resorted to, is to encircle each plant to be set out, with a piece of paper, which should reach down into the soil, as the worm cannot crawl under it, and extend several inches above the surface, so it cannot crawl over it.

The picture shows how this is done, and how the plan works. I often use plant protectors somewhat resembling bottomless flower pots, which I had made for the purpose, as a mechanical obstacle to the cut worm's progress.

FLEA BEETLE (*Haltica*). In this we have another, and often a very troublesome enemy. On soil where cabbage, radishes or turnips were grown the year before, or in the vicinity thereof, these little jumping things appear often in such numbers, that it is difficult to make headway against them. Change of location is, therefore, to be recom-



Cut Worm and Protected Plant.

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mended as the chief preventive measure. Ordinarily we can succeed in preventing serious damage to our young plants of the Brassica family, by dusting them, when first appearing above ground, with plaster, air-slacked lime, sifted wood ashes, soot, tobacco dust, or in fact any dust-like material. When the beetles appear in very large numbers, and consequently are very hungry, mere grit will not repel them, and a little admixture of Paris green—one part to a hundred parts of plaster—to such applications will be necessary. The insect is hardy and resistant enough not to appear to be inconvenienced by even the best of buhach in full strength, nor by strong vapors of naphthalene. Little chicks will catch these insects in great quantities, and so will toads when they happen to come across an infested patch.

Of late these insects have appeared in vast numbers in our potato fields, and often entirely ruin the foliage, greatly reducing the crop of tubers. The only remedy that thus far has seemed to give relief, is spraying the vines freely with a strong decoction of tobacco stems or dust. Very likely, also, the free use of dry tobacco dust may drive these beetles away.

GRUBS—*White*. See *May Beetle*.

MAGGOT—*Cabbage, Onion*, etc. See *Onion Fly*.

MAY BEETLE. (*Lachnosterna*.) In the perfect or beetle state, this does not usually damage the gardener's crops very seriously; but its larva, the well known and much feared "white grub" is often very destructive to the roots of strawberries, corn and other garden plants, especially when grown on sod land recently brought under cultivation. Both beetle and larva are shown in illustration. Fortunately these fat grubs have many



May Beetle and Grub.

natural enemies, especially brown thrushes, robins, crows, and a number of other birds; also moles, pigs, skunks, etc. Fall plowing and continued cultivation will soon rid the field of their undesirable presence. It is also recommended to make some artificial breeding place, by covering piles of fresh cow manure with fine earth during latter part of May or June. Many beetles will select these for a place to deposit their eggs, and the heaps may be turned over and spread out exposing the young larvæ to sure destruction by frost, birds and other natural enemies.

ONION FLY. (*Anthomyia*.) More generally known as radish or cabbage fly. In general appearance it resembles a small house fly. It is the parent of the maggot, which troubles the roots of cabbages, radishes, onions, turnips, etc., and makes itself

so exceedingly obnoxious to the gardener. Plenty of lime in the soil, or its free use about the plants, or ashes from the burnt rubbish heap, tend to keep them away. Wood ashes moistened with kerosene oil and scattered around the plants are said to be especially effective in repelling the fly. Change of location is a reasonably safe and simple preventive, and although not an absolute one, should always be employed where practicable. In some years it is almost impossible to raise early radishes and cabbages free from the disgusting worms, and again the next season on same soil, and all over the whole vicinity, the trouble from this source will be so slight as not to be worth mentioning. The insect seems to prefer radishes to cabbages, and either of these to onions, so that the latter, if some cabbages or radishes are planted in the same field with them, will generally escape attack, as all the maggots will concentrate on the cabbage and radish plants. These must be pulled up and destroyed. Where onions are affected, as may be seen by their tops turning yellow, they should also be gathered and destroyed.

During last spring it has been discovered that lime-water is a reasonably sure remedy, where plants are just beginning to suffer. Slack a peck of caustic lime in 20 gallons of water, pre-

ferably diluted liquid manure, stir long and thoroughly, and apply to the plantation at the rate of a pint to each cabbage plant, or a quantity sufficient to soak the ground closely to the roots, so that every maggot there at work will be reached by the caustic liquid, the mere contact of which brings sure death to all soft-bodied worms. The occasional application of lime-water to plants in seed bed, and also to those in open field, at least during their earlier stages, deserves to be generally adopted as a precautionary measure.



Parsley Worm, Butterfly and Chrysalis.

PARSLEY WORM.—This is the larva of the Asterias butterfly (*Papilio asterias*), and feeds on the leaves of parsley, parsnip, celery, carrot, dill, and allied plants. It is a disagreeable fellow, with a most disgusting odor, and the best way

to treat it is to pick off the leaf-stalk on which it is found, throw it on the ground, and put your foot heavily upon it. Butterfly, caterpillar and chrysalis are shown in accompanying illustration.

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PEA WEEVIL.—This is the bean weevil's larger brother, and must be treated in same way. For directions see *Bean Weevil*.

POTATO BEETLE. (*Doryphora decemlineata*).—This has become far too common to need description. Change of location for the patch can again be recommended as a means to mitigate if not entirely avert its fearful ravages. Paris green will have to be used in nearly every case, however, if serious damage is to be avoided. Hand-picking is seldom reliable, except where the beetles are not usually very numerous. The remedy can be applied either in dry or in liquid form. The beetles, hungry after a long fast, generally appear as soon as the potatoes are coming up, and the first application of poison—preferably in a dry form—should promptly be made, to dispose of this old stock, and prevent not only the destruction of the first tender foliage and consequent weakening of the plants, but also the propagation of the destructive pest.

The preparation of the poison is quite simple. Pure Paris green is mixed with at least 100 times its weight of plaster, flour, or air-slacked lime—the first named preferred. Make the mixture thorough, and if convenient, prepare it a few days in advance. In the absence of better means of application, a simple tin-can, with handle and perforated bottom, will answer the purpose, especially when the plants are yet small. Give each plant, as soon as up, a dash of the dry poisonous mixture, and thus protect it from harm. Later on, when the first brood of eggs hatch, the young larvæ or slugs concentrate in the tender centres of the stalks, and another dash of the poison should be applied without delay, for if neglected more than a few days, the slugs will scatter all over the plants, and make fighting them more inconvenient, necessitating the distribution of the poisonous material over the entire surface of the plant. Repeat the dose as often as required. Various new devices for putting poison in dry form on potatoes, by hand or horse power, have now been introduced, and the grower must select those that suit his case.

When the poison is to be applied in liquid form, one pound of the pure article should be stirred into 150 gallons of water, and under constant stirring, be sprayed over the plants with force pump and spray nozzle. An effective application cannot well be made by the quite common method of using a garden sprinkler, or any similar sprinkling device, without more or less injury to the foliage, in consequence of the uneven distribution over the foliage. The liquid gathers here and there in drops, especially on lower end of leaves, and evaporating, leaves the poison often too concentrated for the good of the plants. This danger may, at least in a measure, be avoided, by having the liquid weak, and keeping it constantly stirred to hold the poison well suspended

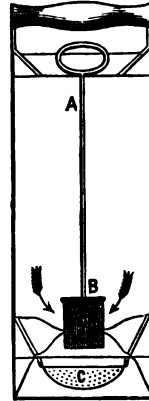
in the liquid. Its natural tendency is to sink to the bottom. The recently introduced "Vine and Plant Sprinkler," invented by F. A. Tyler, Rome, N. Y., and kept on sale by leading hardware dealers, is the only cheap device now known to me, which makes the hand sprinkling method comparatively convenient, safe and effective. I am using it myself, and am well pleased with it. The annexed figures will make the arrangement and use of the sprinkler plain. In normal condition the escape of the liquid in bottom of reservoir is prevented by the tight fitting rubber cap *B* (see interior view) pressed against the orifice by means of the spiral spring *D*. When the rod *A* is pulled upwards (by operator's middle finger) the liquid enters tube *D*, falls into the fine rose *C*, and is forced upon the plant below it, in a fine rain. The same machine, by the interchange of some of the parts, can also be used for sifting the dry mixture, but does not work quite so well.



In use.



Exterior view.



Interior view.

A convenient vine and plant sprinkler.

Potato beetles are very destructive to egg plants, especially late in the season, after potatoes have matured, and the beetles find no more food except the egg plants of which they are very fond. The slugs can easily be kept off by Paris green applications; but the beetles often come in such numbers that no matter how many may die from the effects of the poison, their places are at once filled by others, and it is impossible to save the plants from entire annihilation.

RADISH FLY AND MAGGOT.—See *Onion Fly*.

SNAILS.—The only effectual way of dealing with these, where troublesome, is to set traps by scattering pieces of orange-peel over the ground. The snails are so fond of this delicacy that they will remain clinging to the peel rather than go back to their hiding places at break of day. Examine the traps every morning, and destroy the marauders.

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SQUASH VINE BORER. (*Algeria cucurbita*.)—Our first aim should be to repel the moth, and prevent her from depositing her eggs on the plants. Perhaps this may be successfully accomplished by placing corn-cobs smeared with coal tar, turpentine, kerosene, or carbolic acid near the roots of the plants. If we have not been successful in keeping the moth off, we should hunt up and destroy the larvæ (borers) when they first begin to tunnel through the main stock near the surface of the soil. They give the preference to pumpkins, squashes, and similar members of the gourd family, but also attack melon and cucumber vines, riddling the stem near the ground, and often cutting off all communication between top and root. Discover their location and dig them out with the point of a sharp knife. With squash and other plants which readily strike root from the joints, it is the



Layered Squash Vine.

easiest thing in the world to practically prevent all injury. All you have to do is to cover the first joints firmly with fresh soil as soon as the vines begin to run. The

plants, as shown in picture, can then be made entirely independent of their original roots.

SQUASH BUG, BLACK. (*Anasa tristis*.)—In July the patches of dark brown eggs may be found on the underside of the leaves of pumpkins, squashes, etc., while the bugs are hidden under rubbish, clods of soil, stones, etc., near the plants. Few things seem to be repulsive enough for them to keep or drive them off the plants, but plaster flavored with kerosene or carbolic acid may be tried. It may at least tend to lessen their numbers. Trapping is yet the only sure remedy. Place pieces of shingles, small stones, or rubbish of some sort about the hills, and examine them for bugs every morning, dispatching them by shaking into a dish containing some kerosene, or mashing them with home-made tweezers consisting of a simple piece of band iron,



Tweezers for killing bugs.

and bent as here shown. The bug is repulsive and has a most disagreeable odor, but should be fought with persistency.

WIRE WORM. (*Julus*.)—These are the offsprings of various snapping beetles or elaters, hard, smooth-skinned, white or yellowish, worm-like creatures, feeding on potatoes, carrots, the roots of herbaceous plants, etc., and often doing considerable damage to these crops. As beetles, they live on the tender leaves

of various plants. The name "wire-worm" is often wrongfully applied to the generally larger and darker-colored centipede or thousand-legged worm. Trapping or baiting is about the only method of fighting them which promises any success whatever. Sliced potatoes or other vegetables are buried beneath the ground here and there over the area to be freed from the pest, and each place marked with a stick, for convenience of examination. Look these baits over carefully every morning, and gather and destroy the worms.

OTHER FOES.—Moles, although living entirely on worms and insects, and never destroying crops directly by eating, often, particularly in sandy and mucky soils, become a source of much annoyance to the gardener by tunneling under the plant beds, lifting out, and killing many young plants, indirectly by exposure and drying up. Good traps may now be had at very reasonable prices of almost every hardware dealer. When persistently kept set according to directions which accompany each of these traps, they will soon reduce the numbers of the burrowing pests.

RATS, MICE, ETC.—When troubling hot-beds, hot-houses, etc., are also easily enough trapped or poisoned. Cheese crumbs are a favorite bait for them; but there is hardly anything that will more surely entice the rodents than Sunflower seed. If a steel trap is used to catch rats, a large piece of very thin muslin should be covered over the trap when set, strewn with cheese crumbs, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, etc., and perseveringly kept set. This will clear the premises of rats after awhile. Woodchucks are frequently very troublesome to beans, and occasionally to squash and pumpkin vines, corn, etc. One of the surest ways of getting rid of them, is to find the burrows, insert a one-quarter or one-half pound charge of dynamite with a long fuse, stop up every opening, then fire the end of the fuse outside, and leave the animal to its fate. A mixture of tar, sulphur and salt-petre, burned inside the burrow, with all the openings closed, will also hardly ever fail to produce the desired effect.

BIRDS are sometimes troublesome in the strawberry patch. Try to scare them away rather than shoot them, unless there is no other alternative. Exploding small fire crackers sometimes has good effect. It is said that birds eat berries only because they get dreadfully thirsty; and that a pan kept filled with fresh water where birds can have easy access to it, will save the berries from this source of danger.

CHAPTER XIX.

FUNGUS DISEASES OF PLANTS.

HOW TO PREVENT AND CURE THEM.

"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."



RECENT investigations have acquainted us pretty well with the true nature, modes of propagation, etc., of most of the fungi which attack and damage many of our garden crops, and cause the various rots, blights and mildews. Among them we have the potato rot, the tomato rot, the celery blight, the bean rust, the strawberry rust, the lettuce mildew, the melon vine disease, etc.

Heat and moisture favor the germination of the spores of these fungi, and consequently the diseases generally develop on hot days after rains, or during damp sultry weather. Unfortunately there is hardly a cure for any of them yet suggested. The only safety for the gardener, in this matter, lies in prevention, and here again, as in the case of insects, we must look to change of location—planting at the greatest possible distance from any ground where the same vegetable was grown before, as to the first feasible preventive measure to be adopted. Even this, as in the analogous case of insects, is not an absolute protection, and the great difficulty here is that we have no means to anticipate an attack of such diseases with any degree of certainty.

In all localities where diseases of this character are prevailing to some extent, we may generally expect them late in July or August, when hot weather is following after warm rains, and here prudence would dictate the use of precautionary measures. The trouble again is that so little definite information on the most effective germicides, and the most convenient mode of application is yet developed, and I will have to content myself with merely making suggestions.

SULPHATE OF COPPER.—This salt (blue vitriol or blue stone), in simple solution or in various compounds, has just been recognized as a preventive of the dreaded mildew and black rot in grapes, and also shown its efficacy in destroying the vitality of other fungus spores. It must be remembered, however, that this kills the germs and prevents their starting into life, but has

no effect on them after the thread-like mycelium (as the roots of fungi are called) has once entered the tissues of the attacked leaf, stalk or berry.

The copper and lime compound (Bordeaux mixture or copper mixture of Gironde) is now regarded as the most effective means against infection in case of grape diseases. For the vegetable grower who wishes to employ blue vitriol as preventive of potato rot, celery blight, melon vine disease, etc., I would advise to use the modified form of *eau celeste*, as most convenient to apply, safe and, I believe, effective. I have made and used it as follows, viz.: One pound of copper sulphate is dissolved in a gallon of hot water, and liquid commercial ammonia, a little at a time, added until the copper is all precipitated at the bottom of the vessel. Now three gallons of water are added, and the whole allowed to settle. The clear liquid on top, which contains sulphate of ammonia—the substance liable to burn tender foliage even worse than rust—must be poured off, when the precipitate (copper) is dissolved by the addition of a little more ammonia. This gives us a clear liquid of a beautiful deep-blue color; and when ready for use, it is diluted to 22 gallons. The gardener fortunate enough to have a spraying apparatus, can now apply it to potatoes, celery and melon and cucumber vines, or other plants subject to the attacks of fungus diseases. This should be done early in the season, before the germination of any of the spores can take place, and repeated at least every ten days or two weeks during the period of danger. Celery leaf blight develops most rapidly during hot and dry weather, but having once obtained a firm foothold in a plant or patch, remains sometimes even during the cool and moist fall weather, otherwise so well suited to the wants of celery. Applications of *eau celeste* may check, but will not eradicate it, and the only hope is in making them early and often enough, *i. e.*, using them merely as a preventive.

In the absence of a spraying apparatus the application can be made with a whisk broom, the vine and plant sprinkler mentioned in preceding chapter, or with a fine rose garden sprinkler, but will be more wasteful and expensive.

Tomato Rot.—The abundant use of stable manure seems to predispose tomato plants to the attacks of rot, but some varieties appear to be more liable to take the disease than others, and feeble plants less so than very vigorous ones. Sulphate of potassium in solution (one-half ounce to the gallon of water) applied by means of a spraying apparatus, taking care to thoroughly wet all parts of the fruit, is recommended as a remedy. The first application should be made on the half-grown fruit, and the operation repeated at intervals of ten days or two weeks until the fruit begins to color.

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Lettuce Mildew.—The mildew which is often so very troublesome and destructive on lettuce grown under glass will have to be treated in a different way. In the first place we should aim to surround the crop in greenhouse or hot-bed with the same conditions which nature provides in early spring to the outdoor crop, in other words, grow them in a natural way, especially in a cool atmosphere. Heat from the air, I believe, is better than bottom heat. The temperature should not be much above 40 degrees at night, nor 70 degrees during the day. Lettuce needs plenty of moisture, but water should be withheld on cloudy days, and drainage be perfect. Always water in the morning of bright days. Applications of nitrate of soda, and perhaps of potash also, will render the plants vigorous and mildew-resisting.

A sure and easily applied remedy is the one suggested by the Massachusetts Experiment Station (Prof. Maynard), and consists in keeping a kettle or basin of sulphur (brimstone) heated to nearly the boiling point, in the forcing house for three or four hours twice or three times a week. Enough sulphur must be evaporated to fill the room with vapor so that it will be visible, and give a perceptible odor of sulphur. It might be well to advise great caution in the use of sulphur to avoid its taking fire, for the fumes of burning sulphur will quickly destroy all plant life, and a few minutes of burning might result in the loss of the whole crop in the building.

From the testimony of Prof. Thos. B. Meehan we have no reason to doubt that a paint of sulphur and linseed oil, put on the hot water or steam pipes in the greenhouse, will effectively prevent the appearance of lettuce and other mildews. Besides these there are other promising preventives worthy of trial. I think that the mildew will be likely to stay away if the ground is given a liberal wetting with a one per cent. solution of sulphate of iron (green copperas) before or shortly after setting the plants. The new germicide naphthaline, costing only a few cents per pound, may also be given a trial. It is not soluble, but very volatile, and a little box of it kept in the room will fill it with its penetrating vapor, and unquestionably prevent the germination of the mildew spores. The odor, however, like that of carbolic acid, is offensive to many persons.

Melon-leaf Blight. The fungus disease which attacks melons, cucumbers, and other vines, and is as destructive as it is a common visitor all over the United States, is often confounded with the work of the squash borer. The vines, generally on a hot day after a rainy spell, show signs of wilting, and gradually wither away, the leaves appearing as scorched, and soon death ensues. Wetting the ground with the copperas solution as mentioned for lettuce mildew, and naphthaline scattered among the vines, may prove effective as preventives, and these measures

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deserve a trial. Vines under glass, or otherwise under cover, are exempt, as are grape-vines, similarly protected, exempt from attacks of mildew and rot. Covering the plants lightly with hay or similar material is said to be a reasonably sure preventive.

CHAPTER XX.

SEEDS AND SEED SOWING.

BY MACHINE AND BY HAND.

"Good seed brings a glad harvest."



GOOD seed is one of the essential conditions of success in growing garden stuff, and to secure it is well worth considerable trouble and effort. Compared with the results, particularly with the great difference in the outcome of one kind of seed and of another, the greater expense of a reliable article is not worth taking into consideration. A few cents' difference in cost of seed may make many dollars' difference in the returns. When a whole crop and its quality is at stake, there is no wisdom in running the slightest risk for the sake of a small saving in the expense. Cheap seed is not necessarily poor; but poor seed is always a costly investment. The fact is that seed of really first-class quality cannot be grown profitably at very low figures, and the only judicious course to follow is to buy of a strictly reliable source, and be willing to pay a reasonable price. Would you take a medicine that happens to be on hand, merely for the sake of saving it? It is a no more foolish proceeding than to use seeds because you happen to have them, or can get them at little or no expense. Never plant a seed of the superior character and quality of which you are not reasonably certain. Little difficulty will be experienced if any one is anxious to purchase reliable garden seeds, since there are many firms of established reputation whose goods can be depended upon for quality and purity. All the larger reputable houses send out no seed except that of the purity and reliability of which they are tolerably sure, and only after testing and approving of its vitality.

I cannot warn too emphatically against putting reliance on the seeds sold on commission by grocers and hardware dealers. It is obvious that in buying such seeds you will have to pay for the services of the middleman, while a direct deal with the seedsman will probably insure some saving in the expense. But this is only a minor benefit derived from this direct deal. When only one-third of the packets contained in the commission boxes are sold, it is plain that the dealer cannot afford to throw the two-thirds left over away, but, as a matter of self-preservation,

must put the stale stuff on sale again and again until sold. Consequently, you are never sure whether the seeds you buy from such sources are one or five years old, and this also accounts for the frequency of the complaints about "seed that will not grow." While it is true that we run little risk of obtaining stale seeds when dealing directly with our reputable large firms, complaints about the lack of vitality in seeds are by no means uncommon; but I am quite sure that more generally the responsibility rests with the party who sows the seed, rather than with the seed itself, or the man who sold it.

PRINCIPLES OF GERMINATION.—Much stress has recently been laid upon the importance of using the feet in firming the soil over the newly-sown seed. I am inclined to deem the use of the head in seed sowing of still greater consequence. Any one who has a thorough understanding of the principles involved, and follows the dictates of common-sense in their practical application, will have no difficulty in getting live seed to germinate, whether he makes use of his feet in sowing the seed and firming the soil, or not. Yet in a large number of cases the practice is decidedly commendable, and will often insure success where the unskilled would otherwise fail. What are these principles?

Moisture, a certain degree of heat (varying with different seeds), access of air, and absence of light—these are the chief requirements. How can we best supply them?

The warmth generated by the sun rays is our chief reliance for the needed high temperature in open-air culture, without artificial assistance; and only in culture under glass do we resort to various devices to save, augment or supplement this heat, either by the prevention of loss through radiation from the soil, by sash covering alone, or in combination with additional artificial heat from fermenting manures, flues, or pipes.

Constant but moderate supply of moisture is another chief point, and to insure it, the seed should be bedded in mellow soil, and this packed around it just firm enough to bring it in actual contact with it, and facilitate and make sure of capillary action. If left loose over and around the seed, the capillary movement of the soil water would here come to a stop, the pulverized soil dry out in a sunshiny day and, depriving the seed of the needed moisture, prevent its germination, or kill the sprout if this has already started into life. Excess of moisture should also be avoided.

On the other hand, the soil must not be compact enough above the seed to hinder the upward passage of the young sprout. This is a prolific cause of failure with seeds. While having considerable force, yet the tiny plants only too often choke and die because unable to penetrate a hardened crust of soil. This

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consideration makes it necessary that the ground be well prepared, and thoroughly mellowed before seed is sown, and that the latter be not placed deeper than would correspond with its vital force. Large seeds, of course, have greater life force, and for this reason can be planted deeper than small seeds, from which comparatively weakly sprouts are issuing.

Seeds will not sprout in the absence of air, and if planted very deep, may remain dormant in the soil for years, but when brought nearer the surface, and thereby exposed to the oxidizing influence of the air, will at once start into life. This explains why only the weed seeds near the surface grow, while those lying deeper wait until plow or other implements bring them up within the life-giving influence of air and warmth.

The rule usually given is to plant all seeds as deep as their own diameter, but it is a rule more or less deviated from. Most of the common garden seeds are planted about one inch deep, except such as celery, small herb seeds, etc., that are left very near the surface. Peas may be put from 2 to 4 inches deep, potatoes from 3 to 4 inches, corn from 2 to 3 inches, etc.

PLANTING IN HARD SOIL.—It is comparatively easy to make seeds germinate in sand, sandy loam, muck, or soil rich in vegetable mold. But when the ground is clayey, and it must be feared that it will pack so tight and close, or bake so hard, that the tiny plants will not be able to break through, the shrewd gardener can yet succeed by means of the more liberal use of seed. What a single plant is unable to accomplish, may be but play for the combined efforts of a number of them. The safest way when dealing with soil in this unfavorable condition, is to sow the seed very thickly; and while this involves a greater expense for seed, it insures a full stand, and chances for a full crop without adding other disadvantages, as thinning is needed in either case and requires about the same amount of labor whether you have three plants to the inch or six.

The dried out soil in and after mid-season sometimes proves quite an obstacle to the ready germination of seed sown at that time; but the grower who takes the precaution to sow immediately after the ground is prepared for it, to deposit the seed somewhat deeper than generally done in early spring sowing, and to firm the soil very carefully after sowing, will usually have no difficulty to make good seed come up speedily. *Always sow in freshly stirred ground*—this is a most excellent rule, and deserves to be strictly followed in all cases, and for spring, summer, or autumn sowing. It will seldom fail to insure success, as long as there is life in the seed, and the least moisture in the soil.

SOWING SEED WITH GARDEN DRILL.—When the ground is prepared so thoroughly that the drill works to best advantage, it is usually also in best condition for the germination of seeds. Let

the whole surface be mellow and even. This is easily accomplished in a clean loam, sand or muck. Often the only tools required are plow and smoothing harrow. In most cases the roller can be used alternately with the harrow to good advantage, and the surface thus made perfect; but on less friable soil, and if no Meeker disk harrow is at hand, the finishing touch must be given with a good steel rake. On clayey and very lumpy ground the preparation will require more labor, if not a greater variety of tools. The Disk or Cutaway harrow can be used to break up the lumps, and to bring the surface in proper shape for the smoothing harrow. This may be followed with a Meeker (small disk) harrow, and the latter, if properly used, leaves the ground as smooth as if raked over by hand.

Straight rows make the garden attractive, hence it is always preferable to mark off the rows of the desired width, or at least make a perfectly straight mark, or draw a line for the first row, and then use the marker attached to the drill, always trying to correct any deviation from the straight line. The small roller back of the seed coverers firms the soil, when properly prepared, sufficiently to make the use of the feet for this purpose entirely superfluous.

SOWING BY HAND.

—For the home garden, and where only small quantities of any one variety are planted, as in test plats for instance, the use of



Sowing Seed by Hand, Covering and Firming.

the drill is hardly desirable, and hand sowing is far preferable. A little practice will enable any one of average skill to make a clean job of it. The rows are marked out with the garden marker, and the operator, taking the seed paper in left hand, walks along the row and drops the seed evenly from the right hand held in the position shown in picture. The little finger and its neighbor form a sort of receptacle for a quantity of seed which gradually works down, and is evenly dropped by the

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other three fingers, through a rubbing motion of the thumb against the next two fingers. A person can easily learn to sow in this way nearly as evenly and uniformly as is done by the use of the drill.

The covering is done by simply drawing a steel rake lengthwise over each row, and the firming either by the use of the feet, or by patting with the back of the rake. My favorite practice is to rake in the seed of the first row, then while plying the rake over the second row, to walk on the first row, thus firming it, next, while covering the third row, to walk on the second, etc. Covering and firming all at one time, can also be done without rake, and by the use of the feet alone.

Some of the very fine seeds, like celery, need particularly careful handling. The drill marks are made very shallow, the seed sown rather thickly, and the soil merely firmed by the use of the feet, or back of rake. Special devices are sometimes used for very small seeds, such as covering the soil after seed is sown and lightly covered, with a pane of glass or piece of cloth, etc., and this left on until the young plants appear above ground.

VITALITY OF SEEDS.—In a general way I am by no means opposed to the use of old seeds, when such are at hand, and a thorough test proves that a large per cent. of them will grow readily. This latter is the chief point of importance. Much theoretical matter has recently been written upon the different behavior of plants from new and old seed, as for instance, that new seed tends to produce foliage, and old seed, fruit and seed, etc. This difference in practice, however, is too small to deserve more than passing notice. As a rule, new seeds germinate more promptly than old seeds do, and this is one advantage at least in favor of the former. I have not been able to discover that the new cabbage seeds produce larger heads than seed of the same variety, grown by the same person the year before; nor that old melon seed gives ripe melons a day in advance of new seed of the same variety. The different kinds of seed vary greatly in the time they retain their vitality, and much also depends on the condition in which they are gathered and stored. Onion seed, for instance, is not considered reliable the second season; yet I have known a sample kept over until second season in a tight paper bag in the garret, to contain 85 per cent. live, vigorous seed. Properly ripened and gathered seed, preserved under average favorable conditions, will retain its vitality as follows:

Anise	3 years.	Borage	8 years.
Artichoke, Globe	6 "	Borecole or Kale	5 "
Asparagus	5 "	Broccoli	5 "
Balm	4 "	Brussels Sprouts	5 "
Basil	8 "	Cabbage	5 "
Bean	6 "	Caraway	3 "
Beet	6 "	Cardoon	7 "

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VITALITY OF SEEDS.—*Continued.*

Carrot	4 to 5 years.	Mustard	4 years.
Cauliflower	5 "	Nasturtium	5 "
Celery	8 "	Okra	5 "
Chervil	2 to 3 "	Onion	1 to 2 "
Chicory	8 "	Parsley	3 "
Coreander	6 "	Parsnip	1 to 2 "
Corn	2 "	Peas	3 "
Corn Salad	4 "	Peanut	1 "
Cresses	5 "	Pepper	4 "
Cucumbers	10 "	Radish	5 "
Dandelion	2 "	Rhubarb	3 "
Dill	3 "	Rosemary	4 "
Egg Plant	6 "	Rue	2 "
Endive	10 "	Sage	3 "
Fennel	4 "	Salsify	2 "
Hyssop	3 "	Summer Savory	3 "
Kohl Rabi	5 "	Scorzenera	2 "
Lavender	5 "	Sea Kale	1 "
Leek	3 "	Spinach	5 "
Lettuce	5 "	Squash	4 to 5 "
Sweet Marjoram	3 "	Thyme	3 "
Martynia	1 to 2 "	Tomato	4 "
Melon	5 "	Turnip	5 "

Some of these seeds, like melon, pumpkin, etc., often grow readily even after having passed the stated limit of years; but all are liable to fail much sooner if indifferently kept. Such seeds as onions, parsnips, egg plant, for instance, should always be regarded with suspicion except when strictly fresh.

In the matter of quantity of seed to be required for a certain length of drill, it is usually safer to follow common sense than any of the directions found in books, papers and catalogues. The aim must be to insure a full stand in the drill. Fairly heavy seeding will be the means to this end; but a sufficiency may mean more or less, according to conditions of soil and seed itself. The gardener's own good judgment should be the best safeguard against his going to either extreme.

CHAPTER XXI.

NOVELTIES,

AND WHY WE TEST THEM.

"At our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old."



MAN'S mind was not intended to rest content with any thing short of perfection—hence his ardent and never-ceasing desire to better all his surroundings and conditions. Not idle curiosity merely, but the almost divine longing to do away with imperfections wherever we find them, is what makes us take such an interest in promising novelties, and look so kindly upon every effort toward the improvement of fruits and vegetables, and what renders the "testing of new things" so attractive and charming. It is true that the great majority of novelties introduced with high claims of superior merits develop such shortcomings, after thorough test, that they are quickly thrown aside again, and soon forgotten. But the acquisition of a single worthy new thing often pays a royal compensation for all the disappointments caused by a large number of novelties that prove without value. I will cite as one instance, that of the "Prizetaker" onion, introduced by Mr. Wm. Henry Maule, of Philadelphia, in 1888. The little package of seed I got then enabled me to raise about one-half bushel or more of the most beautiful bulbs that it had ever been my pleasure to see growing, and the satisfaction I got out of their possession, and out of the opportunities to show the growing crop to visitors, would have made up very largely for many failures. I think I would not have missed the chance of growing the Prizetaker in 1888, and of planting more largely in 1889, for a number of times the cost of all the novelties I planted that season. It was a similar thing with the Emerald Gem Melon, Dwarf Champion Tomato, etc.

Some of these novelties mark more or less decided steps in advance. Let us look back upon the tomato varieties of 30 or even 25 years ago—small, poor, seedy, irregular, late. Then came novelty upon novelty in quick succession, each better than its predecessor—General Grant, Canada Victor, Trophy, Paragon, Acme, Perfection, Potato Leaf, Dwarf Champion, Lorillard, etc., until now we have reached a state of perfection in tomatoes that leaves room for distrust in our ability to originate anything better than we at present possess.

Verily there is pleasure in testing novelties, and the fact that some turn out good, and others not, only adds interest and spice to the undertaking. We have the satisfaction, also, to know that nobody has better things in vegetables than we have, and that we get the very best just as soon as anybody else has it. It gives us the proud consciousness of belonging to the better-situated and progressive minority.

For the market gardener quite often there is money in testing novelties. If a new radish comes out that is a day or two earlier than any we had before, or a new spinach that will stand the summer heat a few days longer than the older sorts, he may by another season be enabled to turn such knowledge to best account financially. The home gardener, of course, gets only his satisfaction and pleasure for his pay, and the depth of his purse must determine to what extent he can afford to invest in novelties. People who find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet, and are forced to practice strictest economy, should not attempt to test novelties except on a small scale, and in a cautious manner.

CHAPTER XXII.

SYSTEM AND ROTATION OF CROPPING.

"Gardener's, like woman's, work is never done."



ON various occasions in this work I have already alluded to the necessity of maintaining a strict system of cropping, changing every year, if possible, or with some crops, like onions, at least at intervals of a reasonable number of years. Rotation is useful in the prevention of fungus diseases of plants, and in rendering it more difficult for insects to discover our patches of just the vegetables they live on, thus in a measure insuring the safety of our crops. For the latter reason we should not plant vegetables in succession which are subject to the attack of the same insect or insects, like radishes, turnips, cabbages, cauliflower, kohlrabi and onions. All these are attacked both by the flea beetle and the maggot. Egg plants cannot be safely planted where potatoes were grown the year before, etc.

CLOSE CROPPING.—A system of close cropping, advisable even in the home garden for the sake of keeping it in best order and most attractive all through the season, and the weeds in subjection in a very convenient manner, is absolutely necessary for the market gardener who must make the most of his opportunities. High-priced lands cannot be left to lay idle even a small part of the season. The early peas, and lettuce, and radishes, and spinach, and early potatoes and other first early crops can be followed by cucumbers, melons, celery, spinach, summer and winter radishes, late cabbage, sweet corn, turnips, tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes, or whatever crop having yet time to come to maturity may be thought to pay best. New Jersey gardeners often plant a late crop of common (Irish) potatoes after strawberries. In fact, the ground can, and should, be kept producing some useful crop from early spring until winter, and then it may be made to carry spinach or kale, further south, onions, lettuce, cabbages, etc., either in actual growing condition, or dormant until spring.

A rotation of crops is also demanded in the interest of strictest economy in feeding them. Different crops need different proportions of the food elements, and the same crop grown to the exclusion of others is liable to exhaust the soil of just the

System and Rotation of Cropping.—117

element which it prefers to others ; in other words, to disturb the proper balance of soil fertility. A judicious system of rotation prevents all this. The home gardener should also pay attention to this point, and change the location of each particular crop as far as the limited extent of the area will permit.

CHAPTER XXIII.

WEEDS AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM.

"A stroke in time saves nine."



LOSE cropping with thorough culture as practiced by every good market gardener, and worthy of imitation by every home gardener, gives very little chance to weed growth; and where weed seeds are not carelessly scattered over the land, in manure or by other agencies, soon renders the originally tedious and disagreeable task of weed destruction mere child's play. The weeds grow less with every year of thorough cropping and cultivation. On the other hand, they increase in number, and become more and more troublesome with every year of neglectful culture, and with every year of using manures that are full of foul seeds. Such manure is a bad investment at any time, and for any crop, but almost ruinous to some crops, especially onions and strawberries. Rather than use weedy manures I would prefer to operate exclusively with concentrated fertilizers, supplemented by clover manuring, thus avoiding all this serious risk. The old and somewhat stale saying, "One year of seeding makes nine years of weeding," is in no way an exaggeration of the truth.

Weed destruction is not the sole, nor even the principal object of cultivation; but weed growth may often be considered almost a blessing to the more shiftless manager as it reminds him of the necessity to stir the surface, and imperatively demands, at the peril of the whole crop, that this be done.

Where cultivation is given as it should be, namely, as a mere stimulant, not a destroyer of plant growth, and for the purpose of making the surface soil answer for a mulch, and admitting air freely to the roots of plants, this constant stirring will not allow any weed seeds to do more than just germinate and die. To kill all weeds at this early stage, really before any signs of them can be detected above ground except perhaps to an unusually sharp eye and close observer, is the "one stitch in time that saves nine."

Some weeds I refuse to regard as a blessing under any circumstances. One of them is the Canada thistle. This curse of the farmer of which it is next to impossible for him to rid his fields and farm crops, after a neighborhood has once become

infested, is easily eradicated in the garden by constant cultivation, and if necessary by the use of hoe and knife, preventing all growth of the weed above ground for a single season. No thistle root—nor any other perennial root—can live long without a chance to breathe. Deprive it of foliage (its lungs), and it must die from asphyxiation. Just for this reason, the larger biennials and perennials, the thistles, the docks, asclepias, etc., give the gardener much less trouble than a number of annuals. Among the latter, we have the purslane as one of the most troublesome; and in July and August, the gardener frequently has hard work to make head-way against the immense power of recuperation and multiplication of these weeds. Sometimes there is only one sure way—to gather up every plant in baskets or a wheel-barrow, and remove them from the garden, or dig holes here and there over the patch,



Lang's Hand-weeder in use.

fill up with the weeds, and cover with soil. Chickweed is another troublesome thing, and it should be treated in the same way. Wild mustard is abundant in some fields; but it can easily be eradicated by pulling up every plant for a few years, allowing not one to ripen and scatter its seed.

It is a most fortunate thing for the gardener that weeds do not take an early start in spring. Any crop sown in the cool weather of March, April or early May has therefore a good chance to outgrow the weeds. This is one of the reasons, also, that speak in favor of very early sowing of onions, carrots, parsley, parsnips, celery and similar vegetables, which appear somewhat feeble at first. The wheel-hoe will take care of the weeds between the rows of all such crops, and it is only necessary to pull out the weeds in the rows by hand or slash them out



Lang's Hand-weeder.



Hazeltine's Hand-weeder.

with a hand-weeder, such as Lang's, Hazeltine's or Noye's, or with tools similarly constructed.

To learn to use any of them to best advantage requires a little practice, same as the proper use of almost any implement in garden or field. As a substitute for the patented concerns, I

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have often used (or given to my weeder) common iron spoons, broken case knives properly ground to an edge on both sides and bent in the shape of a curve, etc. In fact, any small sharp-edged tool can be utilized as a hand-weeder, and in very mellow soil the fingers alone will do very well. The process of hand-weeding, of course, has to be repeated as often as weeds re-appear, and if the first weeding was thoroughly done, the subsequent ones do not require so very much time and pains-taking labor. But every weed must be removed; they are no blessing in any sense, and only deprive the crop of moisture (which feature is their worst) and of food.

Many of the annual weeds become very persistent in their efforts toward seed ripening in latter part of summer and early fall. They should not be allowed much rest; for if you give them an inch they will be sure to take an ell.

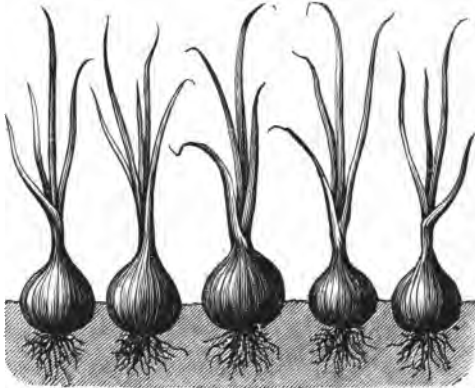
CHAPTER XXIV.

THINNING AND TRANSPLANTING.

"CROWDED—CRIPPLED!"



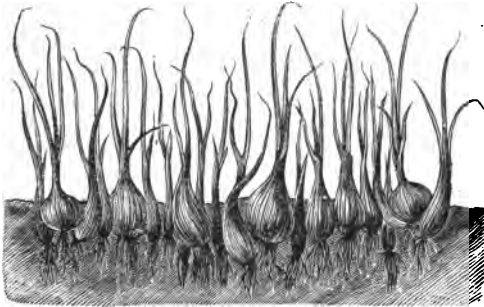
THE liberal use of seed gives us the desirable full stand; but also the less desirable feature of a great surplus of plants. Every plant, not required for making the crop, is practically a weed, as it deprives those that are to remain of moisture, food and room. To remove the superfluous, useless eaters and drinkers at an early period of development is just as essential as the early removal of weeds. Uniformity of vegetables—radishes, beets, onions, etc.,—and an even development cannot well be obtained except by giving each plant in the row a uniform and reasonably large amount of space. The annexed figures illustrate the contrast between a section of rows where the crop (onions) was thinned at an early stage of growth, and one where thinning is neglected. The market gardener whose aim is in the direction of an early crop—of beets, radishes, etc., which he can gather all at once, clearing the rows as he goes along, and thus having them ready for a successive crop—has no other way but thin early and thoroughly. The home gardener may do this work gradually with best results. So for instance in case of table beets. Instead of thinning all at once to the generally recommended distance of 4 to 6 inches apart, the plants may at first be left 2 or 3 inches apart; and when the roots have grown of some size, and begin to crowd each other in the row, every other one be removed, giving the choicest young and tender table beets, greens, etc. A similar course can be adopted with lettuce, and



Onions properly thinned.

people who obtain their supply of vegetables in the open market have no idea what luxury the small and tender hearts of half-grown lettuce afford. Try it once by thinning drilled lettuce to three or four inches apart, and when they have nicely begun to head, pulling up every other plant, and preparing just the young hearts for the table. These are some of the pleasures in the garden that mere money cannot buy.

In a general way I have yet to add that the proper distances among thinned plants, when these are yet very small, appear comparatively large; and sometimes people have not the nerve to slash down and throw away thousands of nice plants which as yet, appear to have an abundance of room. But this has to be done. Whatever distance is decided upon as the best for the particular crop, and in any particular case, should be strictly



Onions left unthinned.

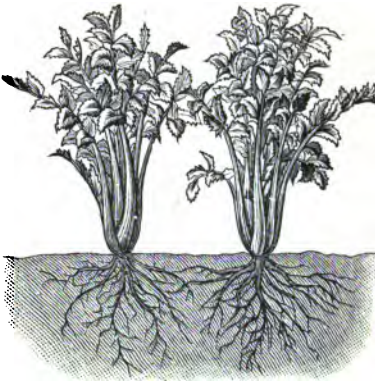
adhered to, and no foolish sentimentality stand in the way of making the distances large enough. It is much safer to err in favor of giving too much space, than in favor of too little.

TRANSPLANTING.—

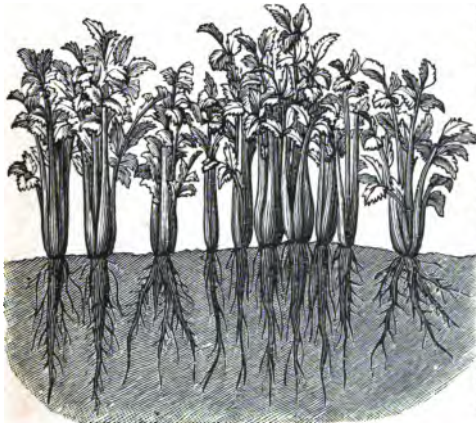
I am not a particular friend of transplanting, and avoid it wherever

I can. *In theory*, transplanting, which is a sort of root pruning, induces early fruit production in tomatoes, egg plants, etc., early heading in lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage, and root development, such as is indispensable in good plants for setting outdoors. For this reason, gardeners practice, and writers advocate, repeated shifting, repotting or transplanting of all sorts of vegetable plants, in particular, also, of tomato, egg plant, peppers, cabbage, celery, etc. *In practice*, transplanting, with its unavoidable root mutilation, is a stab at the plant's vitality, and acts as a more or less serious check to its growth, thus invariably dwarfing it in some measure. Sometimes, if the operation was done under favorable circumstances—in a moist atmosphere, and absence of direct sunlight—it is certainly followed by earlier fruit production or earlier heading. At the same time it also and invariably results in reduced size of plant or head, and reduced aggregate yield of fruit. Should less favorable conditions be ruling at the time of the transplanting operation, however, the atmosphere be dry and the sun bright, the plant will receive a set-back which cripples and retards it for a long time, so that the untransplanted plant will come even sooner to maturity.

The great advantage that transplanted plants have over untransplanted ones, is the greater amount of space which people generally allow to the former. Seedlings are grown thickly in the row, and left thickly. In transplanting, the space is given to each plant that properly belongs to it. Let this be done with the seedlings, by early thinning to the proper distance; or, let the seed be planted in a pot or can large enough, leaving only a single plant to grow; and we can thus produce plants with a well-developed root system, and fully the equal to transplanted plants in every respect. This comparison, of course, refers to plants started from seed at the same time. Much higher rates are always asked for "transplanted" cabbage and celery plants, than for common seedlings. The former, it is true, are usually fine plants, with large roots and stocky tops, and well worth their price. I obtain just as good plants by growing seedlings thinly in drills. All seems to depend chiefly on the amount of space given to each plant, as may be seen in illustrations of celery plants. Well grown, untrans-



Celery plants thinned to two inches apart.



Celery plants irregularly thinned.

planted plants appear to be as hardy and as liable to take hold of the soil in their new quarters, as those that have been transplanted once or oftener, and they certainly can be grown much more cheaply and more conveniently. Strong, stocky seedling plants are good enough in any case, and preferable to poorly-grown transplanted plants. In determining the fruiting time of tomatoes, peppers, egg plants, etc., rapid growth of the seedling, favored by proper allowance of space, however, is not the only, and perhaps not even the chief factor. Age of the plant is certainly of equal, if not superior, influence. For this reason, the plants must be

started early, and as the production of seedlings is more difficult, and requires so much longer time than that of cabbage plants, they must properly be started in "flats" or hot-bed, thickly together, and planted out at an early age, giving the space required for the production of good plants. Even in this operation it is always safest to select the most favorable conditions—moist atmosphere and least root disturbance—and thus to limit the unavoidable check to plant growth to the smallest amount practicable.

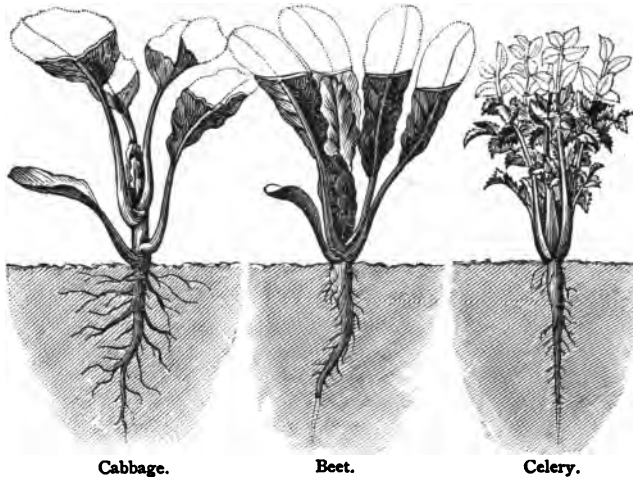
CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS IN TRANSPLANTING.—In a wet season, or during a wet spell, setting out plants in the open ground is an easy enough operation, and anybody, no matter how unskilled, can succeed without effort. During a prolonged spell of heat and drought—and we are apt to have such at the season for setting celery and late cabbages—the gardener often finds his skill and experience put to a severe test by the task. A supply of first-class plants, *i. e.*, such as were grown with proper allowance of space to each plant, and consequently possess a fully-developed root system and a short, stocky top, makes success reasonably certain even under otherwise unfavorable conditions, especially if some soil be left adhering to the roots in lifting and shifting. The most essential requirement, however, in any case is that the soil be moist, not wet or sticky, but so that it will easily crumble between the hands. If the soil be dry, it must be freshened and moistened by artificial watering, or failure will be the sure result. Planting in dry soil is usually fatal, even if water be applied afterwards. *Always plant in freshly-stirred soil*, is as good a rule as the similar one relating to seed sowing.

PUDDLING.—Simply dipping the roots of plants in water just before setting them, is fully as effective as the famous manipulation known as "puddling" (dipping in thin mud), and it is much cleaner, more convenient, and generally preferable. I, myself, have no use for "puddling," neither for vegetable, nor small fruit plants and trees; but dipping the roots in clear water, just before setting the plants, is a precaution which I, or any other gardener, can not afford to neglect.

FIRMING THE ROOTS.—Another indispensable requisite in successful transplanting is the thorough firming of the soil around the roots. It should be packed so tightly and closely that parts of the plant would sooner tear off than allow the plant to be pulled up by them. It is advisable, however, to draw a little loose soil as a kind of protection and mulch up over the firmed soil and around the plant, and in very dry weather the latter may be well-nigh covered up with loose soil to prevent rapid evaporation.

SHORTENING TOPS AND ROOTS.—Another sensible precaution in dry weather is the trimming or shortening in of the tops of cabbage, celery and other plants when getting them ready for

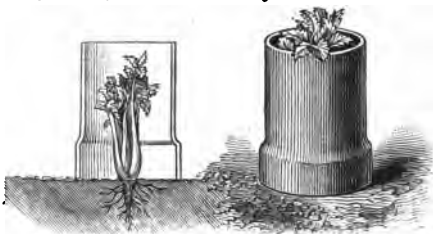
setting out. It is done in the most convenient manner by taking a bundle of plants in the left hand, and removing about half of the tops by a twisting motion of the right hand. Celery plants with excessively long roots should have the tips cut off with a sharp knife. Plants treated in this way, after being planted out, appear as here illustrated.



Plants properly trimmed.

TIME OF DAY.—Cloudy weather permits of setting out plants safely and with equally satisfactory success at any time of day or night; but when the sun shines hot and bright, and the soil is somewhat dry, the proverbial "after 4 p. m." is the right and proper time, and better than earlier in the day. If a little shade can be provided for newly-set plants, it is certainly worth some

trouble to do so—soiled and discarded berry boxes, broken pots, etc., answer a good purpose, and leaves of large weeds, burdock, for instance, will be much better than nothing. Good celery plants are quite sure to survive the fiercest heat, on first being trans-



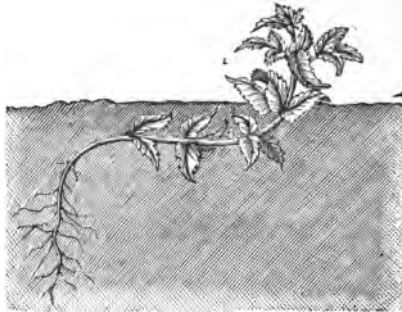
Plant Protectors and Celery Bleachers.

planted, if shaded for some days with a line of boards resting upon blocks or little stakes, and held there a few inches above ground. Bottomless plant pots (5 inch) which I had made for the purpose of bleaching celery, make first-class plant protectors, and plants thus covered for a few days, as appearing in picture, generally pass safely over the critical period. Tomatoes,

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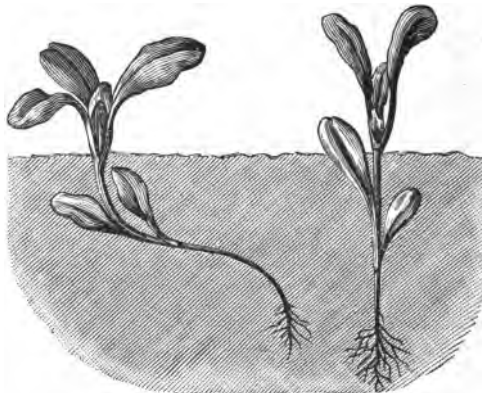
egg plants and sweet potatoes, all of which rather enjoy heat, and are somewhat indifferent to drought, require less care in the selection of cloudy weather, or moist soil when planting out, and may often be set safely when cabbage and celery plants could not be transferred to the open ground without suffering considerable loss.

SPINDLING PLANTS.—Even the most ill-looking, spindling, almost rootless plants of tomatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, etc., can be transplanted with entire success under average conditions of



Planting Overgrown Tomato Plants.

soil and season. All that is needed is to insert the plants into the ground up to their very hearts. Overgrown tomato plants may be laid down in slanting position, care being taken to bring the moist earth in firm contact with the soil where underground.



Planting Spindling Cabbage Plants.

Cabbages may be set either straight down or slanting, according to depth of surface soil and length of stalk. In either case roots will form all along the stems, and the heads will grow closely

Thinning and Transplanting.—127

above the ground, instead of being held high up as if on stilts. The contrast between deep and shallow planting here illustrated speaks plainly in favor of the former. The advantage which



Results of Deep and Shallow Planting.

deep-feeding roots give to a plant by establishing a direct communication with the stratum of uninterrupted moisture is so great that some gardeners even prefer setting tall, spindling plants to short and stocky ones.

CHAPTER XXV.

MEANS OF PROTECTION AGAINST DROUGHT AND FROST.

SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL DEVICES.

"Saving is Earning."



IN most localities of the United States the gardener rarely passes through a season without encountering one or more longer or shorter periods of dry weather. Sometimes these periods assume the aspects of a serious drought, and the average crops of vegetables and fruits are often greatly reduced by these periodically repeated occurrences. Irrigation is the expedient most naturally thought of for meeting such emergencies; but as we have seen in the chapter treating on that subject, artificial applications of water—irrigation or sprinkling, etc.—are useful only under rare conditions, and mere sprinkling can never supplant the rains from the skies, in fact, is often more hurtful than of benefit. But we are not left without means of passing safely over any period of drought of reasonable duration.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST DROUGHT.—During the colder part of the season, when the evaporation from the soil is slow, and the supply of moisture from the clouds abundant, the movement of the soil water is chiefly downward, while during the summer evaporation is usually much faster than rainfall, and necessarily the soil water in the main moves upwards. In other words, the soil forms a sort of reservoir that is filled every winter, and gives off its supply for the use of vegetation (and by evaporation) during the growing season. If this reservoir is shallow, as in case of soils resting upon an impervious clay stratum, the surplus is carried off by surface wash, or in the drains, and the supply is liable to give out when most needed; but if deep, as in the case of a naturally porous subsoil, or one loosened by subsoiling, the available water supply is large, and not liable to become soon exhausted. It is true that capillary action is also going on in the clay hard-pan, but it is far too slow to satisfy the combined demands of surface evaporation, and absorption by plant roots in a dry time. Hence our first aim must be to secure depth of reservoir. It is essential

Means of Protection against Drought and Frost.—129

to supply the conditions which favor a free movement of the soil water up and down, and especially capillary action between surface soil and subsoil, namely, perfect drainage, and subsoiling wherever this action is stopped by an impervious character of the subsoil.

Having once secured these conditions as a foundation, the task before us is rendered comparatively easy, and we can now pay attention to the mechanical structure of the surface layer. Some soils absorb more moisture, and part with it more reluctantly, than others. The following table will make this plain:

Each 100 lbs. of clear Sand is able to absorb and retain 25 lbs. of water.				
Limestone and Sand	"	"	"	29 " "
Sandy Loam	"	"	"	40 " "
Clay and Limestone Soil	"	"	"	45 " "
Clay Loam Soil	"	"	"	50 " "
Clear Clay Soil	"	"	"	70 " "
Rich Garden Soil	"	"	"	85 " "
Peat Soil	"	"	"	175 " "

Soils, therefore, suffer most from dry weather in the order given. Peat never suffers from an ordinary drought, but gorging itself with moisture, which fills all its pores, is much more liable to suffer for want of air. The addition of sand, limestone soil, and even clay, will correct it in this direction. The absorptive and retentive character of sand can be improved by the addition of clay, peat, or more naturally, as in the legitimate way of crop feeding, by the incorporation of coarse manure, or plowing under of green crops. The beneficial agent in the latter cases is vegetable mold. Soils filled with humus absorb and hold water well; a rich soil consequently stands drought better than a poor one. Judicious selection of soil, or improvement of its composition by the addition of clay, manure, peat, etc., are among the most effective precautionary measures against drought.

Applications of wood ashes, (carbonates of potash and lime) also serve to make soils more retentive, and to counteract the evil consequences of a prolonged drought. Some of our best gardeners use them very largely, at the rate of 100 bushels or more per acre, as much with this object in view, as for their fertilizing qualities. I believe that nitrate of soda, and the potash salts also, serve to attract moisture, and to retain it for the use of the crops. Suppose we have paid proper attention to all the points before mentioned. We then find ourselves in first-class shape at the beginning of the season. The subterranean reservoir is well filled, and all we will have to do, to defy even a protracted drought, is to use the supply economically, and prevent its undue waste.

Our aim now is, and should be, to retard evaporation from the surface, and reduce it to the smallest possible amount. This might be done by a mulch of hay, straw or other litter; but the

most convenient material at hand for the purpose is the soil itself. We simply pulverize the surface, for an inch or two in depth, by stirring it freely with cultivator, harrow, hoe, or whatever implement of tillage we may find most convenient and most effective. This covering of pulverized soil we must try to keep on top all through the season. The capillary action from below stops when it meets this loose material with its large interstices; and moisture cannot pass through and beyond it except by the method of slow evaporation; so that our supply is held for the use of plants below the stirred portion of the soil.

Hard rains, of course, again pack the soil tightly, and when this happens, capillary action is at once resumed, and moisture brought up by it clear to the surface. Therefore it is of the greatest urgency that we begin work again with the cultivator and hoe, as soon after each rain as practicable, to replace the important mulch of loose soil. When this point is properly attended to, and with the fundamental conditions spoken of in our favor, we will have little to fear from any drouth of average duration; and even an unusually severe one will not be likely to cripple us. Our yields may be reduced, but thoroughness and promptness in cultivation on judiciously selected and wisely managed land will not admit entire failure on account of drought.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FROST.—Quite frequently spring begins with a long mild spell, lulling the gardener into a sense of security, and inducing him to plant all sorts of tender things in the open ground. Suddenly a cold rain sets in, and on clearing, is followed by a night frost or two that make a clean sweep among all unprotected tender vegetation. In an early warm spring the gardener must take some risk, for there is no gain without. So we may plant some sweet corn, and set a few tomato plants, but never more of the latter than we will be able to protect by covering, or replace, should a late frost occur. If the plants were well-grown and properly hardened, they will often pass through the ordeal of a cold spell or a very light frost without suffering injury, where plants not so hardened would succumb at once.

The main crop of tender plants, however, should not be transferred to the open ground until the soil has become thoroughly warm, and all danger of late frost is past. This for the latitude of Philadelphia will be about May 15th, and further north not until June 1st. Tender plants up to that time are generally much better off in a protected place, frame or greenhouse, where with proper allowance of space they continue to grow uninterruptedly, than when exposed to the comparative hardships of cool soil and occasional chilly days and nights of early spring, conditions which will not permit much growth, and more generally keep the plants at almost a perfect standstill,

retarding them to such a degree that the plants set at a more congenial time often overtake the coddled things set two or three weeks earlier.

Should an unusually early and warm spring induce you to plant more largely before the usual time, one precaution must never be lost sight of, namely, to hold a supply of good plants in reserve for the very possible emergency of a mishap to those set out first. Here is just where so many growers come to grief annually, and almost every year we see people, after having lost their plants by a late frost, anxiously hunting the country over in June, for a new supply, and finally being compelled to take up with a poor lot of late-grown plants, or go without.

DEVICES OF PROTECTION.—Some afternoon in early spring the weather reports announce the rapid approach of a cold wave, and all the indications point to a coming freeze. Then comes the anxious inquiry: How can we save our nice tomato plants, our sweet corn, potatoes and beans, all of which were growing so finely? It will not do to stand by with folded arms, complaining of the weather, and bad luck. Our only safety lies in covering the plants. This may be done by sheets of cloth or paper, litter, or by boxes, large flower pots, etc. The number of boxes and pots on hand in average gardens may not go very far, and I would advise to make use of common manilla paper bags (the two or three pound sacks of grocers) for placing over tomato, and egg plants, etc. Smaller sizes will answer for pepper and smaller plants generally. Round off the corners at the open end slightly, and fasten the bag to the ground by a little wooden pin thrust through each of the two flaps and into the ground, or by a small chunk of soil or a stone placed upon each flap, as may be seen in the accompanying figure.



Devices of Protecting Plants.

Another mode of giving protection to tomato plants in an emergency, and one which I have seen practised with excellent success on a larger scale, consists of covering the bent-over plant with earth. Sweet corn can also be treated in same way, although it is much less liable to suffer serious damage, even if left unprotected. The soil must be carefully removed next morning,

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and the plants again straightened up. Early potatoes can be protected by simply hilling up, entirely hiding the plants from sight.

When you have marsh hay, or coarse litter of any kind on hand, a much better material for covering strawberry patches, and exposed vegetation of a tender nature generally, need not be looked for. Spread the litter thinly over the rows, and remove again next morning. It may be left as a mulch between the rows, or gathered up and drawn off for other uses if desired.

Smoke has often been mentioned as a safeguard against frost, and writers often give the advice to burn rubbish heaps, or heaps of a mixture of coal tar and moist sawdust, placed at intervals over the area to be protected. But this is another case where theory is better than practice, and I do not recommend it either for spring or fall.

Covering with hay, straw, paper, muslin, etc., is about the only feasible plan of protecting crops against the first early fall frosts. The home gardener can often save a few tomato and pepper plants, melon and cucumber vines, etc., by such means, and thus prolong his season of fresh fruits of these tender garden plants for several weeks, for a warm spell usually follows closely upon the first, and (often only) early fall frost. A few tomato and pepper plants may also be lifted with all the soil that will adhere to the roots, and placed in tubs or boxes in the cellar, or under a shed; or they may be simply pulled up and hung up somewhere out of the reach of frost. They will then ripen all the larger fruit that is on them, and give a full supply some time after all the plants left in the open ground are killed by frost.

The crops of winter squashes, late melons, and all others which even the slightest touch of frost would render worthless for keeping, should of course be gathered and stored in a safe place before such mishap can befall them. Full-grown green melons, if properly stored, may be kept for some time, and yet come to full maturity.

CHAPTER XXVI.

HIRED HELP.

EMPLOYMENT AND TREATMENT OF LABOR.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire."



HE finer quality of garden work, with its many somewhat delicate operations, calls for greater mechanical skill, wider experience and riper intelligence than required for the performance of the simpler and more primitive manipulations of average farm management.

Really first-class help is scarce even on the farm. If we watch the average plowman in the field, or the hired man as he wields the hoe, we will soon find that there is a wonderful difference in the quality of such work, and that the man who does a perfect job, like a true friend, is a *rara avis* indeed. More than in any other respect is it a truism of the labor market, that the "best is always the cheapest." The simplest manipulations in the garden are more than doubled in value and lasting benefit when directed by a fair amount of intelligence. One thorough hoeing, for instance, will keep the ground in better condition and free from weed-growth for a longer time than two or three of the average kind of so-called hoeing. The former (thorough hoeing) may require more "elbow grease," but very little more time. The same with other operations.

Years ago I had my onion-weeding done by young boys, picked up wherever they could be found willing to work for 50 cents a day. The poor quality of the work done by the great majority of them, the unceasing and close supervision and discipline they required, the damage caused by the careless destruction of many of the finest plants, the general inclination to slight the work, and the frequency of hand-weeding rendered necessary thereby—all these drawbacks made boy-labor at 50 cents a day come pretty high. Grown persons might have been employed at the same time at \$1.00 a day, and they would probably have done the work 25 per cent. faster and 50 per cent. better, and that without damage to the crop, consequently at a large saving of expense, of supervision and of considerable annoyance. Verily, the good laborer is worthy of his hire: but the poor one certainly is not.

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The gardener everywhere has to face this difficulty of getting intelligent labor—labor which alone is worth having, and worth paying for. It is well worth the trouble—perhaps an absolute necessity—for the market gardener to educate his work-hands, and then try to keep those permanently that suit his requirements. In the first place he must plan to have work all through the year, summer and winter, and to engage his men by the year, and year after year. We can better afford to give a good price to thoroughly skilled workmen, than to employ careless and unintelligent raw hands at a one-third rate.

To make our good hands still more contented to stay, and willing scholars, good books and treatises on gardening, and the better class of horticultural periodicals should be freely provided for them, and the employer should not neglect to acquaint them with his plans of operation, and the reasons for the adoption of the various courses in garden management.

Everything, in short, must be done to make them feel as if it were their own work they are engaged in, and to make them do it with an object in view other than the mere passing away the time, and getting their pay for "time." If this latter is the only consideration for which their work is given, it will most surely be of inferior quality, and not worth its price.

CHAPTER XXVII.

MONTHLY MEMORANDA.

A CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

"Doing the right thing at the right time—that is success."



It would be a futile attempt to give specified chronological directions strictly applicable to all the gardens over the different sections of the United States with their varied climatic and atmospheric conditions. In the following chronological schedule of garden operations, the latitude and general climate of Philadelphia (Southern Pennsylvania, South Jersey, etc.), is taken as a basis. The growing season of the greater part of New York and the New England States, etc., is several weeks shorter at each end, with a month or two more of hot-house and cold frame management, comparative leisure and opportunity for planning, studying books, papers, catalogues, etc., during the winter. Gardeners must govern themselves accordingly, and make every effort to do the right thing just at the right time.

JANUARY.

Attend to cold frames, hot-beds and greenhouses, giving all the fresh air possible during pleasant hours of the day, closing again as a change of temperature occurs. Some days the sashes may have to be opened and closed several times. Cold-frame wintered plants need all the light that can be given, unless the plants are frozen, when they may remain covered with shutters or snow for two weeks without injury.

Market celery or any other vegetable that you may have on hand from last year's crop.

Draw manure to the compost heap, and compost to the fields. Order fertilizers.

During a thaw secure soil for your beds, protecting well with litter or coarse manure, to have it ready for use in making hot-beds.

Plan the season's work, aiming to have the ground occupied all the time, embracing crops that are most profitable, yet do not encroach upon each other.

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Order seed catalogues of leading dealers, and study them carefully; then make your selection of seeds, providing for all possible wants, and send in your order without unnecessary delay.

Select and engage the required hired help. Now you have choice—later you will have to take what others have refused.

FEBRUARY.

Attend to frames, and greenhouses, as in January. Ventilate freely in fine weather.

Test the vitality of seeds on hand, and order a new supply if necessary.

Inspect all implements, harnesses, wagons. Repair where needed.

First of month sow cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce in well protected cold frame or hot-bed for earliest planting, if no wintered plants are on hand.

Latter part of month sow tomatoes, egg-plant and pepper in a strong hot-bed, or in greenhouse.

Continue drawing manure. Fork over the compost heaps.

Last of month, if season is favorable, begin setting wintered plants of cabbage and lettuce in open ground.

MARCH.

Attend to frames, greenhouses, etc., as in February.

Cart and spread manure on the fields to be planted. Plow, harrow.

Sow seeds of radish, lettuce, onion, spinach, early beets, turnips, carrots, celery, hardy peas, parsley.

Dig around the rhubarb plants, and apply fine compost, liquid manure, or nitrate of soda.

Pulverize the asparagus patch, hilling up the rows. Apply nitrate of soda at the rate of 200 to 300 lbs. per acre.

Continue setting cold frame plants of cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce.

Plant onion sets and first early potatoes.

Prick out tomato seedlings in flats or on greenhouse benches three or four inches apart each way.

APRIL.

First of month sow seed of all hardy vegetables—radishes, beets, carrots, peas, spinach, celery; the last of the month the first planting of the tender kinds, beans, sweet corn, etc., can be made.

Sow onion seed for sets.

Thin all the drilled crops planted last month.

Cultivate freely between rows.

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Continue "spotting" (transplanting) tomato seedlings.

Apply nitrate of soda to the early crops.

Sow peppers in hot-bed.

Whitewash sashes of greenhouses, etc., to protect plants from excess of light and heat. Begin hardening off the earliest tomato plants.

Market earliest crops—spinach, bunch onions, radishes, lettuce.

MAY.

For succession sow radishes, beets, peas; also cabbages and cauliflowers for late crop. By middle of month sow mangels for stock, carrots and salsify for main crop.

After first week of month sow seed of beans, cucumbers, melons, corn and lima beans.

After middle of month set tomatoes, peppers and sweet potatoes in open ground.

Plant common potatoes.

Mellow the soil around plants set last month, to keep them growing vigorously.

Keep celery bed well cultivated and free from weeds.

Market early crops—onions from sets, lettuce, radishes, spinach, beets, cabbages, earliest peas.

JUNE.

Plant peppers, tomatoes, egg-plants, sweet and white potatoes, winter beets, late cauliflowers and cabbages.

Clear ground of early spring crops—onions, radishes, lettuce, spinach, etc.—and prepare it for second crops.

Keep celery plants growing vigorously by frequent cultivation. Thin plants as needed.

Thin carrots, beets, onions from seed, parsnips, salsify.

Stir the surface of soil frequently among all crops.

Poison the potato beetles and slugs.

Plant cucumbers for pickles.

Set celery plants for early crop.

Market radishes, lettuce, onions, celery, cabbage and other vegetable plants, peas, string-beans, cauliflower, etc

JULY.

Finish marketing early crops, clearing and preparing the land for succeeding crops.

Plant out late cauliflowers, cabbages, peppers.

Plant tomatoes on the discarded strawberry patch.

Set celery for main and late crops.

Sow seed of winter radish, early beet for winter, ruta-bagas, turnips; last of month kale, spinach.

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Harvest onion sets.

Market early potatoes.

Keep the ground among all crops well stirred to guard against drought.

AUGUST.

Early this month finish setting celery.

Sow for late crop spinach, radish, turnip, kale.

Keep ground well cultivated and hoed.

Pull the late weeds before they mature and shed their seed.

Hoe cabbages frequently, also apply pyrethrum (buhach) wherever worms are troublesome.

Dig and market potatoes. Market cucumbers, melons, tomatoes, peppers, etc.

SEPTEMBER.

Stimulate growth of celery by cultivation, hoeing and applications of nitrate of soda.

Handle celery for early use.

By middle of month sow seed of spinach, and kale for spring.

By twentieth of month sow in drills, cabbage and cauliflower for plants to be wintered in cold frames.

Harvest onions, and sell them at the earliest possible date.

Clean up the hot-beds and cold frames, and get them ready for use.

Watch turnips and drive off flea beetles by application of proper remedies.

Market tomatoes, peppers, lima-beans, egg-plants, melons, cucumbers, pickles, etc.

OCTOBER.

Market the second crops planted in July : radishes, cabbages, endives, string-beans, beets, carrots, cauliflowers, sweet corn, celery.

Handle late celery, earth up gradually.

During middle of month sow lettuce for plants to go in cold frames.

Before frost pick green and half-ripe tomatoes, peppers, etc.

House squash. Harvest sweet potatoes before vines are injured by frost.

Harvest root crops and store in cool, moist cellar, or pit.

Set cabbage plants in cold frames, leaving beds open until hard freezing or snowy weather.

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NOVEMBER.

Finish gathering and storing late crops.

Set cabbage and cauliflower plants in cold frame, and harden them by exposure.

Mulch spinach for spring lightly.

Protect parsley from snow and extreme cold by a board cap or inverted trough.

Celery not well protected is to be gathered early and trenched in, or stored in root cellar.

Market the bleached celery.

Harvest and store root crops. Gather salsify and leeks for winter use, and store like celery.

Top-dress rhubarb with manure, bone meal, muriate of potash.

Clear up the garden generally, and get ready for spring crops.

Draw manure to compost heap or to the field.

DECEMBER.

Look to frames and forcing houses.

Keep cold frame plants dormant. Too much protection is worse than exposure.

Mulch spinach. Draw soil lightly over the tops of salsify.

Market celery, cabbage, onions, beets, hot-house lettuce.

Draw material for the compost heaps from city or town.

Look over the credits and debits of each crop. Figure which are the profitable and which are the unprofitable ones, and study the causes of failure wherever it occurred, to learn how to avoid it in future.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS.

HOW THE VARIOUS CROPS OF OUR GARDENS ARE GROWN MOST EASILY AND PROFITABLY—THEIR LEADING VARIETIES.

"Care brings crops."



IN the following pages I have attempted to describe the best methods of growing the various vegetables, as practised by myself and good gardeners generally. Of varieties, I can only mention the leading or typical ones, and of the newer sorts those that have passed examination creditably, or at least give promise of value. Concerning untried novelties, I must refer the reader to the annual catalogues of our progressive seedsmen.

ANISE.

Pimpinella Anisum. German, *Anis.* French, *Anis.* Spanish, *Anis.*—Anise is one of the half-hardy "sweet herbs," and almost as easily grown as a weed. Sow seed in April or May where it is to remain, in warm and well drained soil, drills to be 12 or 15 inches apart. It is but little grown in American gardens.

The seed has a delicate flavor and perfume, and is prized for its medical properties. Germans use it quite commonly for flavoring apple-sauce.

ARTICHOKE—GLOBE.

Cynara Scolymus. German, *Artichoke.* French, *Artichaut.* Spanish, *Alcachofa.*—The Globe Artichoke is propagated from seed, division of roots, or from suckers. In order to obtain a stock of plants, seed may be sown early in hot-beds, and plants transferred to open ground in May, setting in rows three feet apart, with two feet distance between plants. The rich black soil of river bottoms, moist but well-drained, answers the requirements of this crop best. A bed once established will remain in bearing for a number of years, but needs protection in

the northern states; and for this reason leaves or coarse manure should be applied between the plants from three to six inches deep, according to the usual severity of the winters.

The part used, generally in the raw state, is the base of the scales of the flower. Sometimes they are boiled and served as a salad. The term "Artichoke Salad," however, is more frequently applied to the side shoots, which are loosely tied and bleached somewhat after the fashion of endive. The vegetable is rarely found in American home gardens.

VARIETIES.

European seedsmen catalogue a number of varieties. The **Green**, or **Green Globe**, is probably as good as any other, and the one offered by American seedsmen.

Jerusalem. *Helianthus Tuberosus*. German, *Erdapfel*. French, *Topinambour*. Spanish, *Namara*.—The Jerusalem artichoke or Tuberous-rooted sunflower is easily grown from the tuber, and where the latter has once taken possession of a field, is hard to eradicate. Poor, gravelly soil, too dry for most any other crop, suits this artichoke very well, and will soon be filled with tubers. Plant in open ground in April or May, in rows three feet apart, placing the seed tubers 12 or 15 inches apart in the rows. They require no especial attention until dug, and are not affected by frost if left in the ground. The varieties only differ in the color of their tubers, and are named accordingly, Red-skinned, White-skinned, etc.



Green Globe Artichoke.

Uses.—The tubers, like potatoes, can serve as food for man or beast. Sometimes they are eaten in the raw state, as pickles or salad; sometimes they are boiled like potatoes; but however served, they can by no means be considered a great delicacy for the average American taste. Flesh sweet and watery. Hogs are very fond of the tuber. I think that on a piece of land having little value otherwise, the crop would be quite a profitable one for turning into pork, especially since we can leave the job of harvesting entirely to the pigs themselves. Hog snouts are also the most convenient tool with which to rid a piece of land of the



Jerusalem artichoke, when this becomes a nuisance, which it is liable to do.

ASPARAGUS.

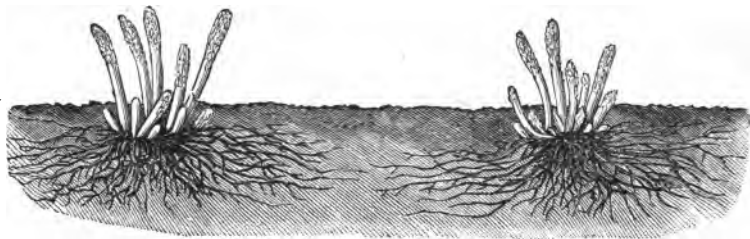
Asparagus Officinalis. German, *Spargel*. French, *Asperge*. Spanish, *Asparrago*.—Asparagus not only gives us a most excellent, wholesome and palatable vegetable, but also a great quantity from a comparatively small area, and this at a time when other fresh succulent vegetables are scarce, and the average person's appetite sharp for just that kind of food after a long period of "much meat and little vegetable." No wonder the demand for the crop, in spite of heavy annual plantings, and a steadily increasing area, has until now been larger than the supply. Very little of it has thus far found its way to the canning establishments, and it seems that these would be glad to work up quantities of it, if a steady supply at reasonable rates were available. The crop, in short, is, and probably will continue to be, a paying one, both for the home gardener, whose little patch supplies his table bountifully from April or May to July, for eight or ten weeks, and for the market gardener near town or city whose crop nets him from \$200 to \$400 per acre, and under very favorable circumstances even more, and all this with comparatively little labor and expense, and year after year when a bed or patch has once been established, and reached bearing age. Yet many home growers, especially among the farmers, have not yet learned to appreciate this crop as they should for their own and their family's good, and thus far fail to grasp the opportunities that it offers.

GROWING THE PLANTS.—In order to grow a supply of first-class plants, it is only necessary to sow seed thinly in drills one foot apart, giving to each plant about two or three inches space in the row. Of course, the soil should be well enriched, and thoroughly prepared, and after sowing, well stirred between the plants by means of hand wheel-hoe, hoe, rake, hand-weeder, etc. Weeds must not be tolerated. In this way on rich, moist, mucky or sandy soil I have often grown plants as large, and fully as good, as the average two-year-old plants purchased of nurserymen. A surplus of good plants can in most cases be disposed of to neighbors or towns-people at a good price, say from 40 to 100 cents per 100 plants.

STARTING THE BED.—The price depends largely on earliness and especially on size and general appearance. The earliest "grass" brings the highest price, and market quotations taper off gradually as the season advances. Large first-class stuff always brings almost double what is paid for an inferior article. These considerations should guide us in the selection of soil and site, manuring, planting, etc. No factor that might have a tendency to promote earliness, and size and quality of the "grass," can be

safely ignored. On the other hand we give the cold shoulder to the old style of digging deep trenches, and filling the whole soil with manure to a considerable depth as formerly practiced—as a waste of labor and manure. Neither do we consider it necessary to apply a great deal of manure when first setting the plants in the permanent bed.

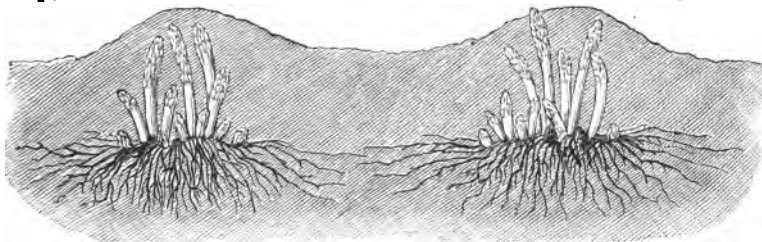
In the selection of soil and site, however, we will be apt to exercise the greatest care. Our first choice will be a deep, warm,



Asparagus Grown Above Ground.

sandy loam, preferably slightly sloping to south or southeast, our next choice a light clay loam. Porous subsoil is almost a necessity, and the use of subsoil plow will be a great advantage where this condition is not perfect. Prepare the ground thoroughly by plowing, harrowing, rolling.

The two ways of growing the crop, both for market and home use, are illustrated in the accompanying figures. In the first, the plants are set shallow, perhaps three or four inches deep, and the stalks broken or cut off near the surface of ground,



Asparagus Grown for City Markets.

when six or eight inches high. This gives us green "grass," always tender, but of a somewhat pronounced flavor. It is a favorite way with the home grower, and in some particular markets.

For most larger markets, especially that of New York city, the stalks are grown under ground, as above illustrated, and thus naturally blanched. It is true that the lower end of each stalk is apt to be somewhat tough, and needs peeling and perhaps shortening, but the flavor is decidedly milder, and of a more refined character than that of the stronger-flavored green stalks.

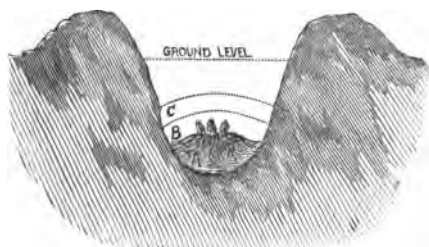
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The market gardener, of course, has to comply with the demands of his available market; the home grower may consult his own individual taste and preference. I will only add that the bleached "grass," when poorly grown in hard, starved soil, is poor indeed; but under good culture, in warm, mellow soil, it is a superior article.

The preparation of the ground, setting the plants, and after-culture, are much the same for both methods, except that the plants are placed only three or four inches deep in one case, against six or eight inches deep in the other.

DISTANCE OF PLANTS.—The size and consequent market value of the stalks is influenced more by the amount of space allotted to each plant, than by any other single circumstance, and for this reason I consider wide planting the only sensible and safe course for the market grower. Some of our most successful gardeners make the rows six feet apart, with three or four feet distance between the plants. Even then the roots completely fill the soil, and interlock between the wide rows. Planting at this distance admits of cultivation both ways. The least distance that should be given in a bed expected to yield fine large stalks for many years is five feet by two, requiring between 4000 and 5000 plants to the acre; and nothing can be gained by planting closer. Fifty plants thus set in good soil will furnish an abundant supply of "grass" for a large family.

PLANTING.—Plow out furrows in well-prepared soil, at least five feet apart, and 10 or 12 inches deep, or if less, at least as deep as depth of surface soil will allow. Then scatter a few



Planting Asparagus in Furrow.

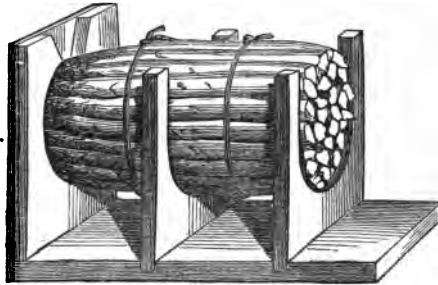
inches of rich, well-rotted compost into the furrows, fill in about as much soil, mixing this well with the manure, and set the plants, good, strong, one-year-old to be preferred, at least two feet apart, each upon a little mound of soil and with roots nicely and evenly spread, in the manner shown in picture, and at such a depth that the crowns will be about 7 inches below the ground level. Then cover with two inches of soil, and another dressing of fine rich compost. As the plants grow, and in the due process of cultivation by horse, the furrows are gradually filled up level with the surface.

AFTER CULTURE.—The bed should be kept well cultivated, and free from weeds. The first season some hoed crop, like potatoes, cabbages, radishes, turnips, etc., might be grown between the rows, but in that case the application of the fertilizer

required to make up for the removed plant food must not be neglected. In the fall, and every fall afterwards, the tops are to be cut before they shed their seed, taken off the field, or piled up and burned. The young plants, that spring up from seed carelessly left to drop, are sometimes worse than weeds. Winter protection by covering with coarse litter or otherwise is not needed except at the extreme north. The stalks should all be left to grow the next (second) season, and same thorough cultivation and general treatment given as in the first. In the spring apply a top dressing of good compost.

With careful planting in the way described, and strong plants to begin with, the bed will yield a fair crop the third season, and a full one every year afterwards. The wise grower will cut sparingly the first cropping season, and always and every season stop cutting at the first indication of weakness of the plants. Long-continued cutting is a great strain on the roots, and some rest is absolutely needed to keep them in health and strength.

Some kind of manure is to be given every spring, according to the needs of the soil. Compost may be alternated with commercial fertilizers. A good practice followed by growers in New Jersey and elsewhere, is to open a furrow with a



Home-made Asparagus Buncher.

one-horse plow between each two rows, fill this with compost, and turn the soil back upon it. Excessive manuring will hardly ever be required. Salt may be beneficial in some cases, but generally has little or no effect. Being a salt-water plant, asparagus can stand almost any quantity of salt without injury, but it does not show any partiality for it. All manures should be applied in the spring, and an annual top-dressing of nitrate of soda, at the time that the first shoots begin to start (in March or April), and at the rate of 200 or 300 pounds per acre, is one of the surest-paying investments.

When the time of cutting the stalks draws nigh, the rows are nicely rounded off, as was shown on page 143, and the crop is gathered every morning. Cutting has to be done with a careful hand in order to avoid injury to the tops of other stalks that have not yet reached the surface.

MARKETING.—Reject all the ill-shaped and under-sized stalks, and using one of the modern asparagus bunchers now on sale in every hardware store, make neat, firm bunches, which should

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be about eight or nine inches long, and four or five in diameter, holding two or three pounds of "grass". Rubber bands are now coming in use in place of raffia or other tying materials; they save time and make a neat, salable package. The butt ends of each bundle are squared by a smooth, clean cut. People who have only a comparatively small area in asparagus, may, if they prefer, bunch their stalks by means of a home-made buncher, such as, for instance, is illustrated on page 145. It needs no further description.

If the product is to be shipped to market, the bunches, to insure their arrival in market in best condition, are packed in some soft material, and pressed firmly and tightly into the package to prevent injury by jarring or shaking about. Knives for cutting



Asparagus Knife.

the crop are kept on sale by hardware dealers, seedsmen, etc. One of the various shapes is illustrated above. In an emergency a common sharp kitchen knife will answer.

SUPERIOR METHOD FOR AMATEURS.—The home grower who is after extra quality, can well afford to take a little extra pains in the preparation of his bed. Instead of filling the furrows with soil simply, he may prepare a very light, very porous compost of fresh horse droppings, muck, wood, or chip dirt, chaff, fine sawdust, rotten forest leaves, etc. This material lies very loosely over the crowns of the plants, and is warmed through very easily by the sun rays, at the same time affording a good protection from cold. Instead of cutting the stalks with a knife, the hand can be easily pushed down along them into the loose soil, and the stalks snapped off at the base with a pressure of the finger. Asparagus grown in this way is very superior, and it may even be profitable when thus grown on a larger scale for market. I have been well pleased with the results of one trial.

VARIETIES.

Conover's Colossal is the variety now generally grown by both market and home growers. Philadelphia Mammoth, recently introduced as an extra large and prolific sort, Palmetto, and a few other newer varieties, have not been generally tested, but deserve further trial.

BALM.

Melissa Officinalis. German, *Citronen Melisse*; French, *Melisse Citronelle*; Spanish, *Toronjil Citronella*.—Although a perennial, balm is usually cultivated as an annual. Sow seed in finely prepared soil, in April or May, having drills one foot apart,

and thin or transplant to six or eight inches. It can also be grown by division of the root. In that case plant in spring one foot apart each way. All the green parts of the plant have a most agreeable aromatic odor, especially when bruised. The leaves are used for seasoning.

BASIL—SWEET.

Ocimum Basilicum. German, *Basilienkraut*; French, *Basilic*; Spanish, *Albaca*.—Select light, warm, rich soil, and sow in May, in drills one foot apart, thinning or transplanting to 6 or 8 inches apart. The leaves have an agreeable perfume and flavor and are used for seasoning.



Sweet Basil.

BEANS.

Phaseolus. German, *Bohne*; French, *Haricot*; Spanish, *Judia*.—Horticulturally we divide the varieties of this important vegetable in two great sections—the Bush and the Pole varieties. In the former we include all those usually grown as a field crop for dry shelled beans, as also the various green-podded snaps, and the yellow-podded wax beans. A more practical classification could hardly be adopted, since the cultivation of all the varieties of each section is pretty much the same.

BUSH BEANS.

The modest requirements of the crop are proverbial, and so it is nothing uncommon to hear farmers speak of land "too poor to raise white beans." Yet the fact which this suggests, is true only in a very limited sense. Their cultivation is decidedly easy and simple, and a crop can be grown on soils of most widely-differing character; but a crop worth growing cannot be produced on soils exhausted of available mineral elements of plant food, especially of potash. Wood ashes and other potash fertilizers are generally of especial benefit to this crop.

All beans are somewhat tender, and should not be planted until danger of late spring frosts is past, or until the time farmers usually plant corn. For a field crop, on a large scale, seed is best sown with a one or two-horse drill; but it can also be done with the garden drill. I prefer to lay off the land in furrows, three feet or so apart, made with a common field marker, and to follow with the drill in these marks. This deposits the seed just about right, two or three inches deep, and if any of the beans remain uncovered in the rows, I follow, cover and firm them with the feet. In the garden I simply open furrows, either with a hand plow, or with the hoe, or in any other convenient way, scatter the seed an inch or two apart in the furrow, and

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immediately cover the soil in over the seed with the feet, firming the soil as I go, in one operation. For the first crop we may select land just cleared from early radishes or spinach, and for successive crops, any ground as it becomes vacant, continuing the planting every two weeks until July or August. The width of rows may be varied between one and one-half and three feet, according to the gardener's convenience and the fertility of the soil. For it is a very general rule, applicable to all crops, that for best results we must plant the closer the poorer the ground, and the wider the richer it is.

After-culture consists in simply keeping the ground well stirred, either with horse or hand cultivator, and free from weeds and in drawing up the soil slightly to the rows when the plants have attained some size. An old precept warns against hoeing or working among beans when the leaves are wet with rain or dew, as rendering them liable to become affected with rust under this



Round Pod Valentine.

treatment. The statement is periodically passed around in the agricultural press. Professional writers, who are not always practical gardeners, love to repeat it. I am not afraid to hoe my bean vines any time that it is convenient for me to do so; and I have never yet noticed the bad results prophesied.

HARVESTING DRY SHELLED BEANS.—The field varieties, or any of the garden sorts grown for seed on a large scale, are harvested as soon as ripe, best by means of one of the modern devices constructed for the purpose, and operated by one or two horses, or the plants are pulled up by hand, laid in rows on the ground, and when sufficiently cured, put in small stooks, or taken to the barn and in due time thrashed out and cleaned. Beans intended for market must be picked over by hand—a somewhat tedious operation, which, however, can be performed during the winter and winter evenings at leisure, and by cheap labor.

Along the coast, near the principal shipping places, from Virginia to Florida, string or snap beans are quite extensively grown for northern markets; and there they generally pay quite well.

VARIETIES.

Early Round Pod Valentine resembles the older **Early Red Valentine** in every way, but is somewhat earlier. In this we have probably the best variety for market garden purposes.

Early Valentine. The pods are fleshy, tender, succulent, and remain on the vines in condition for table use longer than those of most other varieties. Seeds speckled.

Yellow Six Weeks.—Very early, with straight flat pods.

Early Mohawk. A hardy, early sort, and of old-established reputation. Color of seeds, a kind of drab, spotted with purple.

Refugee. (Thousand-to-one.)—Somewhat later than the preceding two, but very productive; pods tender; seed speckled. Largely grown for pickling.

Nonpareil Green Pod.—About the very last bean to mature; a wonderfully vigorous grower; vines being always full of numbers of long dark green pods.

Best of All. A medium early, thrifty and productive variety. Pods are long, stringless and of good quality.

The leading sorts grown in field culture as dry shelled beans are **White Marrowfat**, **Navy** or **Pea Bean**, **Prolific Tree Bean**, **Red and White Kidney Bean**. The newly introduced **Burlingame Mediums** is claimed to be the earliest, hardiest and most productive field bean in America. The wax sorts, with their tender, delicate yellowish pods, are especially suited for culture in the home garden. The list of varieties has been swelled very largely by recent introductions. We may choose among a large number and hardly make a miss.



Maule's Butter Wax.

Black Wax is one of the older standard sorts, with tender, waxy, yellow pods. Seed black.

White Wax differs from the preceding chiefly in color of the seed, which is white.

Yosemite.—No other dwarf bush bean approaches Yosemite in size; the pods being often eight to ten inches long, and as thick as a man's finger. The pods are nearly all solid meat, and stringless, always cooking tender and delicious. It is enormously prolific.

New Prolific German Wax.—A decided improvement on the old German Butter Wax, and more than twice as prolific. The very handsome, golden yellow pods, entirely stringless, are borne in immense quantities on every plant.

Golden Wax, one of the newer introductions, is early, prolific, and altogether reliable both for market and home use.

Maule's Butter Wax.—A very early wax bean of superior quality; full of solid meat, as a pithy or hollow pod can seldom be found.

Perfection or Flageolet Wax resembles the preceding, but is characterized by remarkable vigor of plant and productiveness.

Ivory Pod Wax. A moderate grower only, but producing tender, exquisitely delicate, white, waxy pods in great profusion, and during a longer period than most other bush sorts. Especially valuable for the home garden.

POLE OR RUNNING BEANS.

The running or pole varieties are still tenderer than the bush sorts, and should not be planted until the weather has become thoroughly settled, and the ground warm in spring. Seed, when planted in cold, wet ground, is much more liable to rot than to germinate. All, especially that king of beans, the Lima, need high culture, and succeed best in rich, sandy loam, but can be grown in any rich, warm soil. The Limas are one of those crops that find ready sale in almost any larger market, and in suitable localities are grown with fair profit.

The usual way of proceeding is to set poles four feet apart each way. These poles, as used by most growers, are from eight to ten feet high, which I think is from two to four feet more than is really necessary, or even of advantage. The height of pole should correspond with the length of the season in any given locality, five or six feet being fully sufficient, and better than more, for the short northern season. At the south they might be a foot or two longer, as this will have a tendency to lengthen the bearing period.

The hills, previous to setting the poles, should be made rich and porous, by mixing a shovelful or two of well-rotted compost with the soil. Five or six seeds are then to be planted in a circle around each pole. Press each one firmly into the soil, nearly or fully two inches deep. All our old precepts agree in recommending to place the seed eye downward. Prof. Halstead, upsetting this old theory, proves that the seeds should always be planted flat on their side. In practice, however, it seems to make little, if any difference, and in drill planting I simply scatter the seed in the furrow and cover them up with feet or hoe.

Thorough cultivation and frequent hoeing will make the young plants grow rapidly and vigorously, and soon the vines will require tying to the poles. The pods are gathered as the seeds in them get large, and shelled for market or the table. In some localities the beans are sold in the pod. The ripe beans also find a willing market at from \$4.00 upwards per bushel, and the crop is generally a profitable one in either case.

In my own practice I prefer to grow the Limas and other running sorts on a trellis instead of poles. The illustration on next page shows a small section of what

I am tempted to call a model trellis for this purpose. Heavy posts are set firmly and deeply into the ground at the ends of each row, and smaller or stout stakes at intervals of 18 or 20 feet between them. The upper end of posts and stakes is sawed off square at a height of five feet, and in line, so that a perfectly straight wire (10 or 12 size) can be run from end to end over the tops, where it is held by simple wire staples, but firmly fastened to the end posts, which, for safety's sake, should be firmly braced. A lighter wire or twine is run from post to post at a height of about 6 inches from the ground, and common white cotton yarn wound zig-zag around the two wires (or the wire and twine). Usually I have a row of Limas, etc., in this shape on one side of my kitchen garden, running its entire length, and fully four feet away from other vegetables, in order to give a fair chance for thorough horse work. I also aim to set the posts straight and uniform, to stretch the wires reasonably tight, and to adjust the yarn regularly; and I can assure you that this trellis is not only useful, but when vine-clad, also quite an



Trellis for Lima Beans.

ornament to the garden. With such a trellis the vines require very little attention in the way of fastening to the strings. The latter are so temptingly near, that the runners take hold without much coaxing.

One of the most important advantages of this trellis style over the pole method, I find is the opportunity which it affords us to plant the Limas in a continuous row. Here I use plenty of seed, for I am anxious to secure a full stand, and prefer pulling up plants rather than have vacant spots that spoil the looks of the whole, and materially diminish the yield. Should a bare space occur after all, it is easy enough to fill it with plants taken up from where they stand pretty thickly. Lima beans transplant quite readily, especially if lifted after a rain. Carefully take up a clump of soil with a few plants on it, on a spade or trowel, and set where needed to fill a gap.

The royal Lima requires a pretty long season. Many gardeners pinch the ends of the runners after they have made five or six feet of growth, for the purpose of hastening the crop. This treatment is not needed, especially with short poles or the

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five-foot trellis, since the forced downward course of the vines, after they have reached the highest point of the comparatively low support, gives us practically the same effect as pinching back.

The great fault of the Limas in the northern states is their lateness. We often only get a small part of the crop to reach table size, not to mention the difficulty of getting them to mature on the vines. To make the crop earlier by a week or two, the seed can be planted in a cold frame or hot-bed, either in pots or on pieces of inverted sod, about two or three weeks before it could be safely planted in the open ground. At the proper time, the sods, or the plants turned out of the pots, are then set 4 feet each way for poles, or 2 feet in the row if for trellis. Three or four good plants are left to grow in each hill in the former case, and two plants only in the latter. When seed is planted in drills, as described for my trellis method, the plants, of course have to be properly thinned, one to every 9 or 12 inches.

VARIETIES.

I have tested about a dozen different varieties of the Lima bean, but found next to no difference in time of giving earliest picking.

Large Lima.—This is the old standard sort, reliable and productive. **Salem Improved** is introduced as a selected and superior strain of this.

Extra Early, Early Jersey, or Extra Early Jersey.—Proves to be slightly earlier than the Large Lima, and is claimed to be the earliest of this class. Pods are quite long, and well filled. I have picked pods containing seven and eight seeds each in New Jersey.

Dreer's Lima gives quite short, but closely-filled pods. The seeds are rounder and plumper than those of any other Lima, and of superior quality. A fine variety for the home grower, and profitable for the market gardener who sells the shelled bean, or for the consumer who buys in the pod.

King of the Garden.—Pods of enormous size, beans large. The reverse of Dreer's—profitable to sell in the pod, and to buy shelled.

Red and Speckled Lima are newer introductions of strong and vigorous growth, about as early as the earliest, and decidedly prolific. Seed of fine, rich flavor, but objectionable in color, and consequently not wanted for market.

Small Lima or Sieva.—I cannot see that this makes up in earliness for what it lacks in size, productiveness and flavor. So I have no use for it in my garden.

Henderson's Bush Lima might be included in this list. It appears to be a dwarf sport of the Small Lima or Sieva, resembling it in every respect except habit of growth. Its bush



Lazy Wives.

form, great productiveness and extreme earliness are its chief points of merits. The Large Lima is now also reduced to bush form in Burpee's Large Bush Lima, and Dreer's Lima in the Kumerle Lima.

Of other pole varieties, I will mention White Creaseback, a green-podded pole string bean, claimed to be the earliest of that class.



Golden Cluster.

German Wax, Golden Wax and Golden Cluster are yellow-podded running sorts for both string and shell beans.

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Lazy Wives.—Pods are wonderfully broad, thick, fleshy, and above all entirely stringless, retaining their stringless and tender qualities until they are almost ripe. The vines cling remarkably well to the poles. Pods are rather flattish, oval shape, and when fully grown are from four to six inches long.

Horticultural, Speckled Cranberry or Quail Track, much esteemed for the home garden. Seeds oval, speckled.

Improved Dutch Runner has many of the characteristics of the Lima in growth, and is very productive. Beans clear white and of largest size. Next to the Lima, the best for market.

Scarlet Runner.—A strong grower; flowers of beautiful scarlet, and produced in great abundance. Probably more ornamental, than useful for the table.

BEETS.

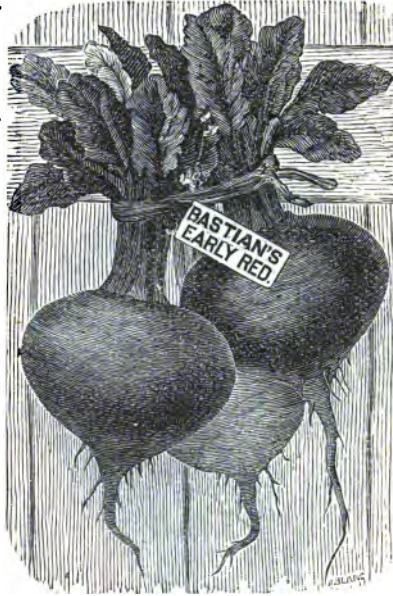
Beta Vulgaris. German, *Rothe Rübe*; French, *Betterave*. Beets for early bunching are a leading crop of the market garden, and generally quite a profitable one. I have already in a former chapter alluded to their cultivation under glass, in cold frames, and cold houses. In open air they are grown in a



similar way, only more space is usually given, and no radishes are grown between them as a secondary crop. Rich warm soil (sandy loam) is the chief requisite. It is well-manured with rotted compost, and prepared as for other small vegetables, that is to say, plowed well, harrowed well, and made thoroughly smooth, if necessary with steel rake. In early spring when soil conditions and weather will permit, the seed is sown in drills from 12 to 18 inches apart, and clean and thorough cultivation given from the start. The crop is especially grateful for one or more applications of nitrate of soda, and can be largely increased or made earlier by this means. The market gardener's aim is to get a uniform lot of roots, bunch them for market while small (two to three inches in diameter), clear the land at the earliest possible date, and replant to some other crop. From this standpoint he must thin to a uniform distance of three or four inches soon after the plants

have made a few leaves; and since he does not intend to let the plants grow to large size in the bed, he can make the rows as close as he may desire, 12 inches distance between them being ample. In the kitchen garden we usually have the rows 15 or

18 inches apart, since we prefer to use up the crop gradually, perhaps thinning at first for greens, then beginning to pull the roots when yet small, and continue using them as we desire for the table, thinning all the time, and perhaps leaving the last of the crop to attain quite a respectable size. For a succession, seed can be sown every two weeks until midsummer, if desired. A supply for winter use may be stored in boxes, barrels or heaps in the cellar, but should always be kept covered with sand, soil, sods, etc., to prevent evaporation, and consequent wilting, and shrivelling of the roots. The pitting method, as hereafter described



Improved Blood Turnip.

for mangel wurzels, can hardly be improved upon for keeping beets fresh, crisp, and in best table condition generally, until spring.

VARIETIES.

Extra Early Egyptian, Early Egyptian or Egyptian Turnip.—This and the Eclipse are now almost the only kinds grown for early market in many localities. Tops small. Roots of a uniform deep blood color, and of rapid growth. Best for forcing.

Eclipse.—This is now preferred to the Egyptian by many gardeners. Flesh much lighter in color. About as early, and decidedly a good variety.

Bastian's Early Turnip,
Philadelphia Lentz Early Turnip,
Blood Turnip,
Improved Blood Turnip,

**Early Bassano,
Edmand's Turnip, etc.**

All these belong to the class of "Blood Turnip Beets," and are good early or intermediate sorts for the home garden everywhere, and for market in many places. All are so reliable, it would not be easy to choose the best among them.

New Market Gardeners, is very symmetrical, with small tap-root, and but few fibrous roots. One sowing only is necessary to produce early beets for market and main crop for

winter use. Color outside is deep red; inside layers of blood red and light red alternately.



Half Long Blood is in shape what the name indicates. Good for second early, late fall or winter. (Long or) **Improved Long Blood** still remains a standard late and winter variety, excellent for the kitchen garden. Color of root a dark crimson.

Swiss Chard forms no edible root, and is cultivated mainly for its leaves, which make very fair greens, like spinach. The coarse midribs of the leaves are sometimes served like asparagus, and by some pronounced a good substitute for it. There are also

varieties having variegated and quite ornamental foliage, and we sometimes meet them in flower gardens and borders.

BEE T.—Mangel-Wurzel and Sugar.

Root crops for stock (horses, cattle, sheep, swine), chief among them the mangels, sugar beets and carrots, are not yet appreciated as a farm crop by our people as they deserve to be. I have grown such crops for many years, to a greater or smaller extent, and can assure my friends that they are exceedingly profitable. Such immense amounts of succulent food for winter and spring feeding, in the shape of mangels, can be produced on comparatively small areas, when well managed, that I am convinced any farmer who keeps stock, but makes no use of the silo method, will never again omit planting mangels, carrots or both, after having once made a thorough trial *in the right way*. This latter is the important point; for if mismanaged, the first trial is apt to result in utter disgust. Begin cautiously; plant a small area, and never more than you are sure you can give

prompt attention when needed. This will show the novice how to proceed, and insure his success, even on an enlarged scale.

PLANTING MANGELS.—The safest way, especially for the beginner or when cultivating a somewhat large area, is to plant wide enough for easy cultivation by horse power—say in drills three feet apart. Select any piece of good, clean farm land, but giving a young clover sod the preference. Cart on plenty of good fine manure; 40 loads to the acre is not too much, and even more will pay. This is plowed in; or composted poultry manure, in smaller quantity, may be applied after plowing, and harrowed in. Get the land in good condition for sowing the seed, by the use of roller, smoothing harrow, or, if you have it, of the small disk (Meeker) harrow. The surface should be smooth and fine. A good way of sowing seed is with a grain drill, with part of the discharge tubes thrown out of gear, so that those in operation will leave the drills somewhere near three feet apart.



Or the field may be marked off in shallow furrows, of distance mentioned, with a common field marker, and seed sown with the garden drill, following in the marks and sowing about four pounds of seed to the acre. If you have no drill, you can simply drop a pinch of seed (three or four) every 12 inches apart in furrows made same as for planting corn, preferably one and a half inches deep. Then cover with the hoe or foot, and firm by stepping upon it, or pressing soil upon it with the

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back of hoe. A few radish seeds might also be scattered along the rows with the beet seed. The radishes will better indicate the rows, so that we can begin to cultivate a few days after sowing. The radishes may be pulled up when of table or marketable size.

CULTIVATION.—Prompt action is the all important point. Weeds should never be allowed to crowd. Cultivate with a narrow-bladed horse-hoe or cultivator; hoe as often as needed, and while the plants are young, run the hand wheel-hoe astraddle the rows, to keep them as near as possible free from weeds with-



out much hand hoeing or hand weeding. Thinning should be attended to before the plants begin to crowd one another. Most of this work can be done with a hoe, and since we desire but one good plant to 10 or 12 inches of drill, we can easily strike out the plants and weeds growing on the spaces between. Of course there may be a number of plants left on each clump near the plant we wish to save, especially where the seed was sowed like corn (in pinches). We then have to pull up the surplus plants by hand.

GATHERING AND STORING.—Thorough cultivation and timely attention on good and well-manured land is pretty apt to bring a crop that will astonish the novice, as a yield of 40, 60, and even more tons to the acre is not uncommon under favorable circumstances. Before frost,

in autumn, the beets are pulled by hand and thrown in heaps to be topped (*i. e.*, foliage cut off with a sickle or corn cutter) and drawn to the cellar or pit. The best storage place, undoubtedly, is a regular root cellar in the basement of the barn. A separate root or potato cellar, such as a dug-out in a hill-side, or the root cellar described for the winter storage of celery, also makes a very good place for beets, carrots, etc., to be fed out during winter and spring. If we have neither of these conveniences, we must store what we want to use during winter in the cellar we have at our command, although it is not a wise nor safe-practice to store many vegetables and fruits under the rooms in which we live, and rear a family.

No difficulty will be experienced in carrying root crops over until spring in pits outdoors, in same way as farmers frequently winter apples and potatoes. Select a dry spot or one for which drainage can easily be provided, and dig an excavation about a foot or 18 inches deep, 6 feet wide, and of the length required to hold the quantity of roots to be wintered over. They are placed in a conical heap, as shown in illustration on page 160, covered with six, eight, ten or twelve inches of straw, according to the severity of the winters in the particular locality, and with a foot of soil upon the straw. A whisk of straw or a section of common tile drain, reaching from the straw covering through the soil to the outside, should be adjusted in the centre of every eight or ten foot section to provide the required ventilation. If such a pit is opened before the cold weather has entirely passed, the roots remaining in it need careful covering to guard against freezing.

VARIETIES.

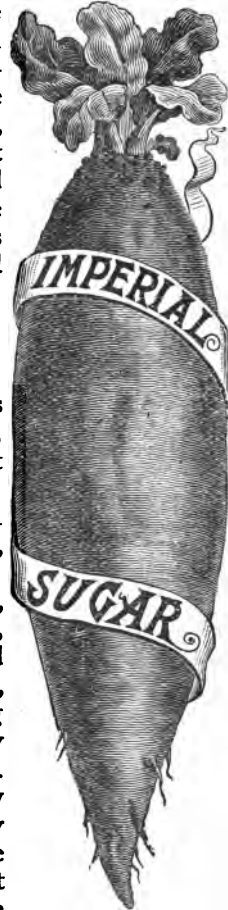
Long Red.—This with its various strains and improvements, **Prize Long Red, Jumbo**, etc., is the variety for rich, deep soil, where it grows to enormous size.

Yellow Tankard, Golden Tankard.—A beautiful, solid and prolific variety. Flesh rich, deep yellow all through.

Yellow Globe and its various strains, **Champion Yellow Globe, Kinver Globe**, etc., are preferable for shallower soil, and reliable for all. Roundish in shape, beautiful, solid, and altogether desirable. When young they make very fine table beets; by many people even preferred to the Blood varieties.

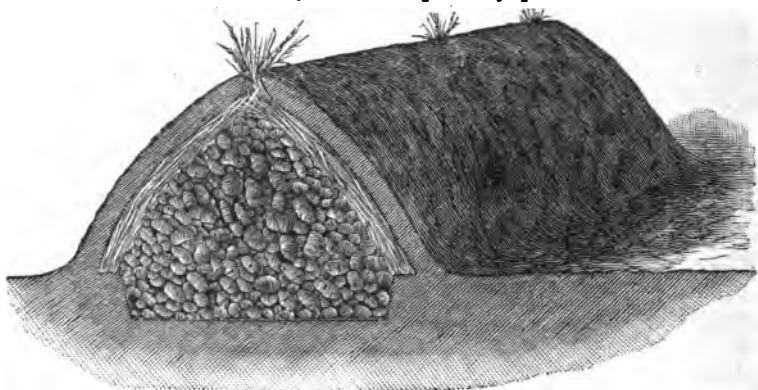
Giant Yellow Intermediate.—This new variety has a magnificent root, which is easily lifted from the ground. Produces very large crops, and has proven itself to be a most excellent keeper. Has a fine neck, large leaves with green stems, and very smooth skin; flesh firm and sweet.

Gatepost.—One of the very finest mangels. The roots are heavy, handsome and clean, with single tap-root. Very rich and nutritious. With good cultivation crops at the rate of 2500 bushels per acre have been grown.



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Imperial Sugar, like all other sugar beet varieties, does not yield quite as handsomely as the mangels, but makes up in richness what it lacks in yield. Especially profitable for cows.



Pit for Wintering Potatoes, Root Crops, etc.

BORECOLE (See Kale).

BORAGE.

Borago Officinalis. German, *Borretsch*; French, *Bourrache*; Spanish, *Boraja*.—This annual, which is of free-flowering habit and grows to a height of a foot or 18 inches, is rarely found in American gardens. It can be grown as easily as a weed, by sowing the seed in any corner or waste place in spring or summer. Some uses, not known to me, are made of it in cookery, and also in medical science.

BROCCOLI.

Brassica Oleracea (Botrytis).—German, *Spargel Kohl*; French, *Chou-fleur d'Hiver*; Spanish, *Brocoli*.—In broccoli we have little more than a cauliflower under another name. It thrives under the same conditions of culture, namely, moist, fertile soil and cool atmosphere, and is always grown for fall and winter use. Seed is sown in seed bed in May, or later further south; and plants may be set in July (August or September in southern latitudes) in well-manured and well-prepared soil, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart. Cultivate and hoe frequently. Heat and drought are the great enemies of the crop, and often prove fatal. A good crop, like that of the cauliflower, however, hardly ever fails to be very profitable.



Broccoli.

VARIETIES.

White Cape and Purple Cape are the varieties generally grown in America. More than forty different forms or varieties of broccoli are known to English gardeners.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

Brassica Oleracea.—German, *Brüsseler Sprossen Kohl*; French, *Chou de Bruxelles*.—The “head” of this cabbage variety consists of a few loose, crumpled leaves borne on a tall stalk, and no culinary use is made of it. The stalk itself, however, is surrounded and often completely covered by the “sprouts,” which are miniature cabbage heads, seldom much larger than a walnut, and of choicest quality, not inferior to cauliflower. While it is as easily grown as a cabbage, it is seldom found in American gardens. There seems to be a good demand for it in city markets, and the crop can be made as remunerative as cauliflower. Sow seed in April or May, and in July set the plants about two feet apart in soil prepared as for late cabbages, giving about the same cultivation. The sprouts will be ready for use in autumn, and until severe freezing. Where, as in the south, the plants endure the winters in open ground uninjured, a supply of sprouts can be had until spring. In gathering, they should not be broken off, but cut off the stems with a sharp knife, leaving as much of the spur as possible, in order to induce the formation of successive sprouts.



Brussels Sprouts.

VARIETIES

Dwarf Brussels Sprouts.—This is the variety generally catalogued by American seedsmen. It is of low, compact growth, and produces the little heads closely all around the stalk.

Tall Improved.—The stem of this is much taller, and the heads grow more scatteringly around it.

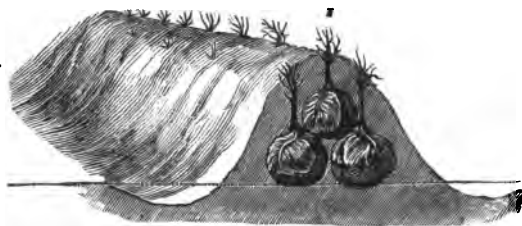
CABBAGE.

Brassica Oleracea. German, *Kopfkohl*; French, *Chou*; Spanish, *Col Repollo*.

GROWING FOR EARLY MARKET.—Early cabbages are one of the foremost crops of the market garden, and usually yield a fair profit. The plants are started in September, and wintered over as directed in chapter on “cold frames,” or grown in hot-houses or hot-beds during the second half of winter. When grown in the latter way, great pains should be taken to have the plants thoroughly hardened off, for they are to be set as soon as the ground can be put in working order, and in all probability will have to endure considerable cold and uncomfortable weather.

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Selection of soil for the crop is also of utmost importance. Nothing can be better than a rich calcareous or sandy loam, naturally drained, and manured with at least 40 tons of good compost to the acre, or in the place of it a proportionate quantity of wood ashes (a most excellent fertilizer for cabbages, by the way); complete concentrated (commercial) fertilizers, etc. Fall plowing, throwing up the soil in ridges to better expose it to freezing and thawing, always tends to improve the mechanical condition of the soil, and to get it in planting condition much earlier in spring than could be expected otherwise. Mark off rows from 2 to 2½ feet apart, and set the plants 16 or 18 inches



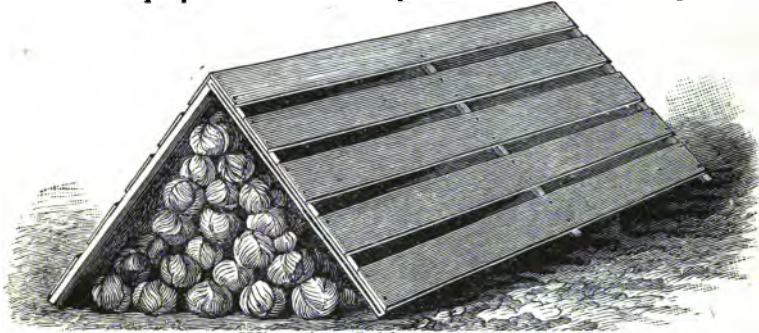
Wintering Cabbages.

apart in the rows, and down into the ground to the heart. Cultivate and hoe frequently to keep the ground mellow, moist, and free from weeds. Occasional dressings of nitrate of soda, at the rate of 250 to 300 pounds in the aggregate, will seldom fail to pay exceedingly well. It is not necessary, either, as is often recommended, that these applications should be made during or just before a rain. When the ground is reasonably moist, the effect is sure, and all the more lasting; even if it should not rain

for a week or longer after applying it. Look out for the maggot, and if necessary resort to the remedies found in the chapter on "insects."

This is the market gardener's method. The home gardener is less anxious to get cabbages for the table in May or June. If he is content to wait until nearly July for a really superior article, he may adopt my method of sowing early in the spring (March or April) in open ground, in drills 2 or 2½ feet apart, and thinning to 15 or 18 inches in the drills, leaving the best plants. For a second early crop the market gardener can also sow seed in April, and transplant in May to the permanent patch, or thin to the proper distance apart.

LATE CABBAGES.—These are much more a farm than a market garden crop, and as a farm crop are often quite profitable. A possible surplus, as well as the waste and all the unmarketable part of the crop can generally be put to good use in the cattle yard. Sow seed during May in seed bed, and transplant during June in well-prepared and liberally-manured soil, making rows



Wintering Cabbages in Pit.

three feet apart, and plants from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet apart in the row, according to vigor of variety, and strength of ground; or sow thinly during June in drills three feet apart, and afterwards thin to the proper distance. In either case thorough cultivation and frequent hoeing are conditions of best success. The intermediate varieties, such as Winningstadt, Fottler's, etc., will often give good heads for winter, at least in a moist season, even if sown as late as July. A handful of good fertilizer, bone-dust, potash, etc., (according to the needs of the soil) or a somewhat larger quantity of wood-ashes or composted hen manure, scattered around the plant after it has become well established after transplanting, as also light dressings of nitrate of soda, are always a great help. All of our hard-heading cabbages, when they are approaching maturity, and are not soon gathered, are liable to burst open or crack, which spoils them for market if not for use. Heads show-



Express.

ing this inclination may be pushed or pulled over to one side. This breaks or loosens part of their roots, and for some reason appears to counteract the undesirable tendency. I still have to add that cabbages should not be grown soon after cabbages on the same land. Club-root—a disease which attacks the root, and hinders the full development of the plants—is the usual penalty of a violation of this rule.

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METHODS OF WINTERING.—There are numerous ways in which cabbages can be kept successfully for home use, or the often good market during latter part of winter or early spring. A general rule is applicable to all methods. It is this, to pull the



Early Wakefield.

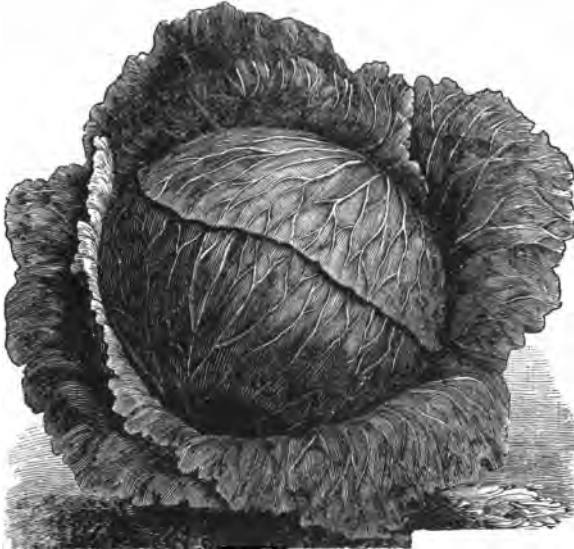
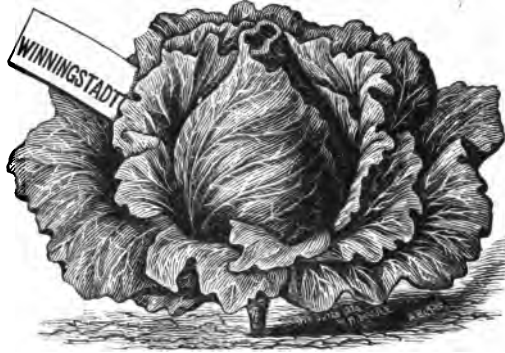
crop on a dry day, and pack it only when perfectly dry. Also put off the final covering, or storing in buildings, cellars, etc., as long in the fall as can be safely done. One of the most commonly practised methods is to wrap the outer leaves of each plant firmly around the head, and stand root side up closely together, either in single line or in a close double row, with or without another layer

on top; then plow a furrow from each side to the ridge of cabbages thus formed, and finish covering up with soil, using shovel or spade, leaving only the extremities of the roots sticking out. The illustration on page 162 represents a cross section of each of the three arrangements. Another good way to store cabbages is to put them in pits, like root crops. The excavation is made 6 or 8 inches deep, 4 feet wide, and as long as needed to make room for the quantity of cabbages desired to store. Here the heads are packed in a conical heap, roots inward, and covered with 8 or 10 inches of soil, packed firmly. In case we should want to use all or part of them during the winter, it will be a good precaution to cover the south side of pit with straw or other dry litter deep enough to keep the soil from freezing, and thus secure easy access to the cabbages whenever wanted. An improvement on this method was recently published in the *Rural New Yorker*. Boards or slabs are placed on bottom of pit. The cabbages, well trimmed



Etampes.

and dry, are packed in, as was illustrated on page 163. Triangular frames of 2 by 4 scantling are then set upright into the pit, one at each end only if pit is less than 8 or 9 feet long, one additional in the centre for a pit of from 9 to 15 feet in length; and common fenceboards are nailed to them, thus forming something like a large three-cornered crate around the cabbages. This is lightly covered with straw, and 4 to 6 inches of soil upon that. The ends need only be stuffed with dry straw, which will give free access to the contents of pit at any time. I know of no simpler or better method than this. For wintering a few dozen heads only, a barrel may be sunk into the ground to the brim, filled with trimmed heads, covered with dry forest leaves, chaff, etc., and a simple roof to exclude



Midsummer.

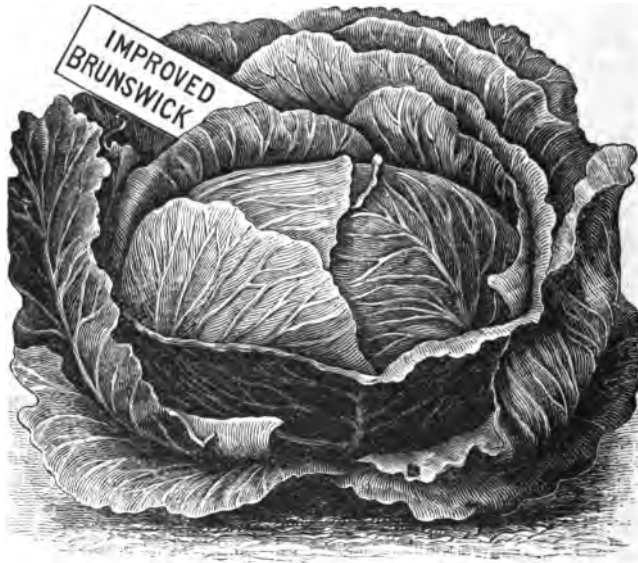
rain and snow. The cellar under the dwelling house is, for sanitary reasons, hardly a place for storing cabbages; but a very few after removal of the coarse outside leaves, may each be wrapped in several thicknesses of common newspaper, so that only the

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roots are showing outside, and hung up in a convenient place in the cellar. Farmers might put a load of cabbages in some corner of the barn, on the floor, hay-mow, etc., and keep them lightly covered with loose straw, and thus have them ready for use at any time during the winter that they may desire them. The regular root cellar is also a good storing place for cabbages.

VARIETIES.

Of these we have an endless number, and among them quite a good many that are very good. In fact, we have so much choice that the selection often puzzles us. Of many varieties again, we have almost as many strains or selections as we have leading seedsmen. Often the difference between many



of these strains and the original type are decidedly "strained," and too nice for us clumsy observers; again, they are often so strikingly distinct that they give us the difference between very indifferent and quite complete success, and this, I repeat, merely from different selections—strains—of one and the same variety.

A serious fault of many of the cabbage seeds that I have bought of various sources during recent years, is their somewhat "mixed" condition. We often get too many sorts in one and the same lot, and the consequence is a mixture of all sorts. The evil seems to be on the increase, too. In justice to the publisher of my work—Mr. Maule—I have to say that I have been much pleased with both the high quality, and the purity of all the cabbage seeds I have had of him. I cannot agree with him and

other leading seedsmen, however, in regard to the wisdom and propriety of their nomenclature, especially their methods of multiplying names by adding their own for the sake of distinguishing strains.

EARLY VARIETIES.

Early Wakefield. In this we have yet the leading early market variety, making solid, conical heads, with few loose outer leaves. For both home and market garden it has no superior as an early sort. Seed of this is grown quite extensively on Long Island, and I have always had excellent success with it.

Earliest Etampes. Much spoken of as a good market variety, earlier than the preceding, while it is decidedly reliable. I have never been able to discover



Flat Dutch.



Surehead.

more than a slight difference in earliness between the two kinds (in favor of the Etampes), nor other points of merit above those of the best strains of Wakefield.

Early Express. Another early variety of the Wakefield type, introduced as considerably earlier than that variety, and profitable for early market. Said to produce heads in

70 to 75 days from time of sowing seed.

Early York, and Early French Oxheart, being extremely early, were formerly the leading sorts for market; but since their heads are little more than loose bunches of leaves, they have deservedly lost favor with the growers.

INTERMEDIATE VARIETIES.

Early Winningstadt should be planted by all who have usually but indifferent success with other varieties. As a sure header, even under adverse circumstances, it has no peer; and in spite of its earliness, it forms large cone-shaped heads, which are of good quality. It is emphatically the home grower's and the

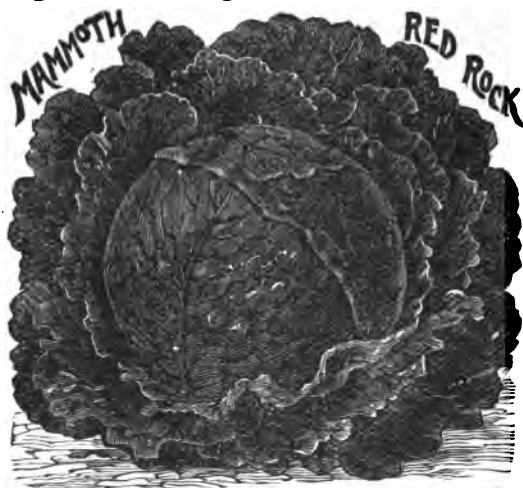
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novice's sort, and can be planted for early, intermediate and late, by planting at different times, sometimes as late as July, even at the north.

Early Summer comes a week or two after Wakefield, is much larger with round, flat heads, of excellent quality, and altogether one of the best and most reliable second early market sorts, and desirable in the home garden also.

Midsummer.—Very nearly as early as the Early Summer, and at the same time producing very much larger heads, which for solidity and compactness cannot be surpassed. It is a remarkably sure header, and for a market crop is one of the most profitable varieties.

Fottler's Improved, or Improved Brunswick.—This large, hard-heading and reliable sort can be grown alike for summer, fall or winter use, and is the earliest of the large Drumheads.



Early Bleichfield Giant also makes large, solid heads, with dark green leaves, and is reliable for second early.

Early Flat Dutch is a good early sort of the Flat Dutch class, with good-sized heads, and can be recommended especially for the south, as it seems to stand heat better than many other varieties.

Blood-Red Erfurt makes extremely solid heads of a deep red color. Used for pickling. May be planted for both early and late.

LATE VARIETIES.

Prize Flat Dutch, Large Flat Dutch, Excelsior Flat Dutch, etc., is a thoroughly reliable short-stemmed late variety, forming large flat heads. Good for both market and home use, and deservedly popular.

Surehead is introduced as an improved sort of the Flat Dutch type, and I find it pretty much what its name indicates. Can be planted with entire confidence.

Red Dutch is the best late pickling sort, with round and extremely hard heads, and dark red in color.

Mammoth Red Rock. This is the largest and hardest heading red cabbage in cultivation. Successful Long Island market gardeners will raise no other kind of red cabbage, for they consider this the best of all. The heads frequently average 12 pounds each, and it is a very sure cropper.

Stone Mason, much grown in New England States, makes very solid heads, and is quite popular at the north.

Large Late American Drumhead, with its various strains (Louisville Drumhead, Short-Stemmed Drumhead, etc.), is a late sort with very solid heads of good quality. Decidedly a good variety, both for market and home use.

Felderkraut.—A German variety, especially desirable in making kroust; heads large, hard and solid.

Drumhead Savoy.—Few cabbages have given us as much satisfaction in the home garden as the Savoy. In quality they are far ahead of the common varieties, and not so very inferior even to the cauliflowers. The Drumhead Savoy, in addition, can be depended upon to yield large, solid heads under fairly favorable conditions, and also stands high as a winter keeper. It deserves to be more generally planted.

Marblehead Mammoth is undoubtedly the largest of all our cabbages, and makes firm heads of good quality; but needs high culture and the entire season to come to perfection. It is especially recommended for warmer latitudes.

CARDOON.

Cynara Cardunculus. German, *Spanische Artischoke*; French, *Cardon*; Spanish, *Cardo*. Cardoon is one of the many vegetables quite commonly grown on the Continent of Europe, especially in France, yet almost entirely unknown to American cultivators. Neither is there any prospect for its coming in general use. I confess I have not yet seen it in a single American kitchen garden. It belongs to the same species as the Artichoke. Its leaf-stalks, blanched like celery, are used for salads, in soups, etc. Sow seed in early spring, in very rich, and moist soil, having rows 3 feet apart; then thin the plants to 1½ or 2 feet apart in the rows. Give good cultivation, and in autumn tie up the leaves with matting or bands of straw or hay, covering them up entirely almost to the tips of leaves, then earth up like celery. In four or five weeks the hearts will be blanched enough for use. Take up before frost and store like celery.



Cardoon.

CARAWAY.

Carum Carui. German, *Kümmel*; French, *Carvi Cumin*; Spanish, *Carvi*. A common European biennial meadow weed. Seeds used in flavoring bread, cheese, pastry and sauces. Seed may be sown in spring or fall, in drills. Little or no cultivation is required except to thin, and keep reasonably free from weeds.

CARROTS.

Daucus Carota. German, *Möhre*, *Mohrrübe*; French, *Carotte*; Spanish, *Zanahoria*. I have already referred to the carrot as a vegetable grown in cold frames, etc., for early



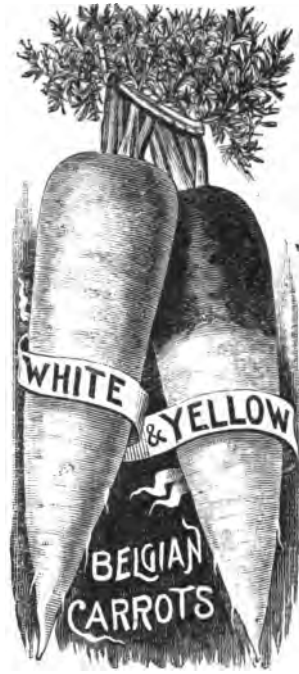
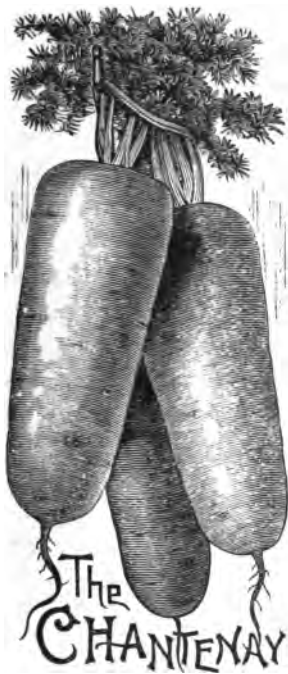
Danvers.

market. See Chapter on "Cold Frames." As a market vegetable, carrots are tied up in bunches, in same fashion as early beets, bunch onions, etc., and generally prove profitable. When grown as an early outdoor crop for market or family use, seed is sown as soon in spring as the ground is in proper working order, in rows 12 to 15 inches apart, and the plants thinned to 2 or 3 inches apart in the rows. The ground need not be as heavily manured as required for most other garden crops; but early attention must be given, for the plants have a small beginning, and start somewhat feebly, and if neglected are liable to get crowded out by weeds or lost among them. Keep the wheel-hoe going from the very first, and pull up every weed.

Except in the limited way of bunch carrots, the vegetable is more of a farm than a garden crop. Carrots, although good culinary material in the hands of skilled cooks, are not used so

extensively for a kitchen vegetable here as they are in Europe; but we are learning to appreciate them more and more as a root crop for stock, especially for horses and milch cows. In many places, especially near larger cities, carrots for stock feeding are one of the best paying farm garden crops, being in ready demand at \$1.00 to \$1.50 per barrel; and since 300 barrels and upwards can be produced per acre with good culture, the reader may draw his own conclusions concerning the profits.

The crop can be grown as a second one after spinach, radishes, early beets, and even strawberries, early cabbages, etc., without further manuring. One of the best selections of soil



on the farm is a piece of good, strong, well-drained, clean clover sod, manured with twenty-five or thirty tons of compost or 1000 to 1500 pounds of fertilizer, or a ton or two of wood ashes per acre. The cultivation which carrots require will also fit such land admirably for a succeeding crop of onions, or vegetables of that class. The ground should be deeply worked and thoroughly prepared. For home feeding I prefer the White Belgian. For market sale the Long and Half Long Orange sorts must be grown. Mix a few radish seeds with the carrot seed, and sow in drills 18 to 24 inches apart, using about six pounds of seed per acre. The radishes come up quickly,

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and the wheel-hoe or cultivator should at once be brought in use. When the radishes are of fair eating size, they have fulfilled their mission, and may be used, or thrown away. Again let me emphasize the necessity of timely weeding and early thinning. Weeding on weedy soil will require a great deal of labor; hence weedy soil and weedy manure should be carefully avoided. The large late varieties need three, and on rich soil perhaps even four inches space in the row to each plant. After once having taken a good start they grow fast, and do not need so very much attention. Gather the crop before severe freezing. This is best done by running a one-horse plow close to each row on one side, thus almost laying the roots bare on that side, and then prying them out with a spade, or simply pulling them up by hand. Top, and store in same way as described for mangel wurzels. The roots should be perfectly dry when put away, or when packed for sale.

VARIETIES.

Early Scarlet Horn.—This is most generally used for forcing for early market. Deep orange with small tops, and of good quality. Adapted for shallow soils.

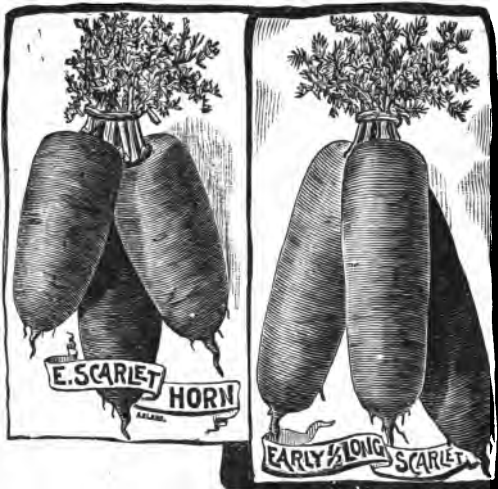
Oxheart.—An intermediate between the Early Horn and Half Long varieties. In quality it is extra good, and will prove

profitable in both the home and market garden. Where other sorts require digging, Oxheart can be pulled.

Early Half Long Scarlet.—A stump-rooted sort, well adapted for shallow soils, and good for table use.

New Chantenay is an improvement on the Half-Long Scarlet, of same general characteristics, and rich orange color.

Danvers.—A Half Long variety of large size, is deservedly popular for general uses—a sort of all-purpose carrot. I have grown it for years and still consider it one of the best. It gives greatest bulk with smallest length of root of any of the orange sorts. Roots handsome, smooth, easily gathered, and of rich dark orange color.



Long Orange, Improved Long Orange, is another good sort for general purposes, and especially adapted to deep soils. Very productive; roots smooth and handsome.

Saint Vallery.—Very straight roots, broad at the top. Of superior quality for table use. Of deep orange color.

White Belgian.—In this we have a somewhat coarse, but excellent variety for stock, attaining largest size, and for this reason the most productive of all sorts. Grows partly above ground and can be gathered by hand.

Yellow Belgian, another fine variety for stock, resembles the White Belgian, but is perhaps richer, and less productive.

White Vosges is introduced as an enormously productive field carrot, adapted for shallow soils. Can be pulled up without the use of tools. Not recommended for the table.



CATNIP.

Nepeta cataria. German, *Katzminze*; French, *Menthe de Chat*. This perennial weed is quite common here, and more generally considered a nuisance than fit for cultivation. The leaves and young shoots are sometimes used for seasoning, and the plant has valuable medical properties. It is also appreciated as a honey-bearing plant, and cultivated on that account. It grows easily from seed sown in drills 18 or 20 inches apart, in almost any soil, and will need little or no attention.

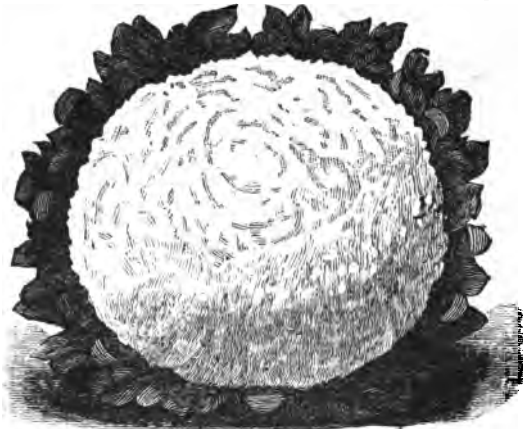
CAULIFLOWER.

Brassica Oleracea (Botrytis). German, *Blumenkohl*; French, *Chou-fleur*; Spanish, *Coliflor*. High culture, deep, rich, moist soil plentifully provided with humus, and cool atmosphere, are the chief requisites for best success with this crop. Nice heads cannot be grown in hot, dry weather and soil; hence gardeners always aim to have the plants head up either in early summer or in late autumn. For early crop the plants are wintered over in cold frames, or grown in greenhouses or hot-beds during the winter, in the same way as already described for early cabbages; but being less hardy, they need more protection, by mats, shutters, etc.

Good cauliflowers always find ready sale at paying prices, \$15.00 to \$25.00 per one hundred not being an unusual figure; and for this reason it would be very unwise to attempt econo-

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mizing in the manure account. Fifty tons or more of good stable compost per acre, besides liberal dressings of fertilizers, wood ashes, nitrate of soda, etc., are no more than can be applied with profit. Plow deeply and pulverize the ground thoroughly. In early spring, as soon as the ground is ready (March or April, earlier at the south) the plants are set 30 by 15 or 18 inches apart, and cultivated and hoed frequently. This is the crop of all crops with which irrigation, by any of the natural methods, if it can be adopted without unreasonable expense, will pay. A plentiful supply of moisture, either by such means, or in consequence of frequent rains during the time of heading, insures a good crop.



Prize Earliest.

When the heads begin to form, be sure to clear out the worms that may be on the plants, by the prompt use of buhach, tar water, or thymo-cresol, and then gather up some of the large leaves over the head, and tie loosely to exclude the direct sun rays. This treatment keeps the heads clean, white and

delicate. For late crop, seed is sown in May or June, the plants set out at same time as late cabbages, 3 by 2 or 3 feet apart, according to variety. Same general treatment as for cabbages is required, but soil should be richer.

VARIETIES.

Until now seed of all sorts had to be imported from abroad, very little being grown near the Atlantic coast. An effort is now being made to grow it on the Pacific coast, and it seems with entire success. The American-grown seed is remarkably large and plump, and gives strong plants. The heads I had from such seed were not inferior to any from foreign seed. I have no doubt that American seedsmen will soon offer only the home-grown, especially since this promises to be the cheaper of the two. The best foreign seed has always been excessively high-priced.

Early Snowball, now recognized as the leading sort for early use, probably is good for late also. A very reliable header.

Prize Earliest has recently been introduced as earlier even than **Snowball** or **Early Erfurt**; desirable alike for forcing and open-air culture.

Earliest Dwarf Erfurt.—One of the old stand-bys, and a sure header.

(Extra) **Early Paris**.—Popular for forcing.

Autumn Giant, Veitch's Autumn Giant.—A large, late, vigorous growing sort, with large firm heads, well covered by the inner leaves.

CELERY.

Apium Graveolens. German, *Sellerie*; French, *Cèleri*; Spanish, *Apio*.—Celery fits so admirably into the crop rotation of market as well as home gardens, that it has become indispensable in both. It affords an opportunity, after early crops are taken off, to make profitable use of the ground from mid-season until winter, and brings money to the market grower, and a daily relish of unsurpassed deliciousness for fall and winter to the home gardener. The newer methods and newer varieties have now greatly simplified its culture, and rendered quite easy what formerly was an awkward and laborious task.

GROWING THE PLANTS.—A supply of good plants is the very foundation—an indispensable requisite of success. It is true, plants are freely advertised for sale by good growers at very reasonable rates; but my experience with such plants, after they have been packed for shipment, and gone through the hands of express companies, is far from satisfactory. I find that they come pretty high in the end, and often they cost more than the crop is worth after it is grown. The average quality of celery plants sold by growers, in my estimation, is rather poor. I grow annually a few thousand plants above what I need for my own use, and usually sell the surplus. After the best plants are picked out for planting, I consider those I sell of no more than fairly passable quality; yet the buyers hardly ever failed to compliment me upon the fine plants that I furnished them. This shows that they are not accustomed to buy really first-class plants, and for this reason I am sure that the wisest, in fact the only safe, course for celery growers is to raise their own plants. If my instructions are followed to the letter, it is a comparatively easy thing to do.

In early spring prepare a rich, but clean, moist, and somewhat protected patch of ground. Put on plenty of fine compost, which should be free from weed seeds; and fork, spade or plow it into the soil. A top-dressing of composted poultry manure (wood-ashes, fertilizer, or whatever is on hand and thought of benefit to the land) may then be applied and mixed with the

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surface soil, using harrow or steel rake. In short make an extremely rich and perfectly mellow seed-bed. Now mark out shallow drills one foot apart, and in these sow the seed, at the rate of one ounce to about 200 feet of row, firming it afterwards thoroughly with the feet. Next smooth the surface by drawing the back of rake lengthwise over each row, or, holding the rake perpendicularly, handle upwards, pat the ground by pressing or striking the teeth flat and firmly upon the row. Rolling, although not strictly necessary, is, however, a good precaution. A small patch may be kept supplied with moisture by occasional watering, by covering with a slatted screen, providing half-shade, or by spreading a piece of cloth directly upon the soil until the seeds have germinated. Water, when required, may in the latter case be given upon the cloth, and soaking through it will provide the soil with moisture. The cloth must be removed as soon as the plants begin to show themselves above ground.

My own practice differs from this in so far as I grow the plants in my regular vegetable patch. The ground is prepared in the usual way and as required for sowing onions, radishes, lettuce, and similar crops; marked out with the common garden marker and in same distance as for the other crops. I walk upon the rows to firm the seed, and otherwise treat as above described; but without shading and rarely watering. The wheel-hoe is promptly and persistently brought into use, and the ground kept loose and free from weeds from the very start. Early thinning is of the utmost importance, and I refer the reader to what is said on this subject in the chapter on "Transplanting and Thinning." Give the plants room enough if you want them to grow large, stocky, and to make strong roots. Narrow the row down with the blades of the wheel-hoe, or slash into them with a hand weeder, until not more than 40 or 50 plants are left standing to the running foot. An occasional light top-dressing of nitrate of soda (in its absence perhaps of saltpetre, preferably in solution) will do wonders in giving you rapid growth of the plants. Once or twice the tops may be cut back with a sharp sickle or knife, to induce still increased stockiness, and by the time the plants are wanted for setting out, you will have a stock that for its excellence must astonish people accustomed only to see and handle the average plants of the professional plant grower. I have not yet seen a place so far back that a few thousand good celery plants could not find ready sale amongst neighbors and towns-people at 50 cents per 100, or \$4 per 1,000. I can grow them profitably even at a lower figure.

Southern people who need their plants so much later, namely, in September or October, generally depend on northern-grown plants. To supply this demand the seed should be sown toward the end of May. A somewhat shady, moist piece

of land will be best, and shading may be required in most cases. But it seems to me that southern people, if they take these same precautions in the selection and treatment of a patch, could grow their own supply of plants without much difficulty.

In the foregoing I have given you one of the "secrets" in horticulture that are of money value to those who make a proper use of it. The knowledge of "how to grow celery plants" brings me at least a little money every season.

PLANTING.—Now we have the plants, and good ones, too. The next thing is to set them so they will make a good crop. The soil selected is usually such as is cleared from an early crop, or, in the home garden, any available spot in composition between sand and clay. If the first crop, as is very likely the case, was well supplied with feed in the shape of compost, there will be enough left of it to carry the celery crop through all right. In practice, I prefer to apply additional manures or fertilizers even then, and I do this in various ways, according to the particular circumstances of the case. To plant a patch, even if not larger than for a few hundred plants, furrows are opened with a one-horse plow, going twice in same furrow to get the desired depth. These furrows are made three feet apart for the self-bleaching sorts, and somewhat more (from 4 to 5 feet) for the common sorts that have to be bleached by "banking" or earthing-up. They are partly filled with fine, thoroughly-rotted compost—preferably of cow manure—, fine barn-yard scrapings, etc., and some soil mixed all through it. More soil is then filled in, and the rows made nearly level with the surface.

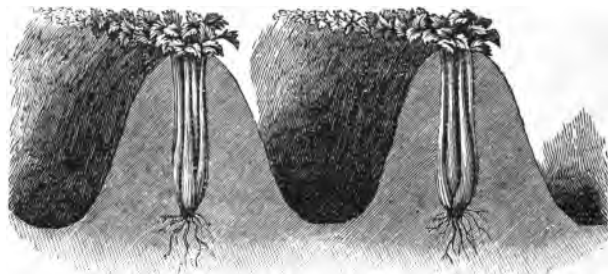
If only a single row of celery, and a short one at that, is to be planted, as sometimes happens when a small strip of the vegetable garden becomes available, I merely apply the compost along the row to the width of about a foot, and fork or spade this nicely in. A little fertilizer or wood-ashes is scattered on top, and the soil raked smooth and even. After the ground has been prepared by either method, the garden line is tightly stretched along the row, and the plants set six inches apart.

At the north our usual time of setting celery plants is early in July, and for winter use up to August. Gardeners in the middle and southern states plant correspondingly later. The plants should be lifted from the seed row when the ground is wet, or at least moist. In a dry spell I always give the plant rows a thorough soaking an hour or two previous to pulling plants. The ground where plants are to be set should also be moist. Let me again call attention to the general rule (which especially is not to be disregarded during a dry time): Always sow and plant in *freshly-stirred soil*; then firm thoroughly. The plants after being pulled are properly trimmed or clipped at both ends, the roots dipped in water and planted with a dibber, which is also used to

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press the soil firmly against the roots, so that a leaf would tear off quicker than allow the plant to be pulled up by it. To apply a half pint of water to each plant after setting is a good precaution.

AFTER-CULTURE.—The ground must be kept clean and mellow, and the plants in growing condition by the frequent use of wheel-hoe, horse-hoe, steel-rake, and hoe. Next comes what is called "handling." When the plants have made a good growth, and the nights begin to get cool, late in August, the ground near the plants receives a thorough loosening, either by plowing a shallow furrow towards the row from each side, or by drawing soil up to it with the hoe. The gardener now gets down on his knees, straddling the row, and gathering up all the stalks of one plant after another in his left hand, packs the soil firmly around with his right, to retain them in this compact and erect position. More soil is then drawn up, or hoed up, to them.

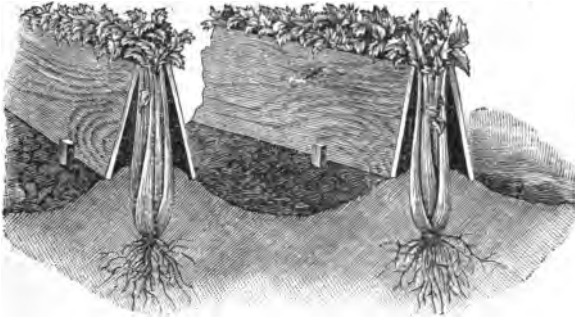


Celery after Earthing-up.

BLANCHING.—No further treatment is necessary for the self-blanching sorts to blanch them for market; yet we can greatly improve their flavor by earthing them up like the common varieties. Various methods are employed to blanch the crop. The one, though old, but yet commonly used, is by earthing up or "banking." This had best be done gradually, in two or three operations. Soil is dug up from between the rows, and banked up against the plants from each side, at the last operation almost to the tips of the leaves, as shown in above illustration.

Blanching by means of boards is coming more and more into favor with market gardeners, and well deserves recommendation. The plants are first "handled" in the usual way, and boards 10 inches wide are then set on edge against the rows from each side, as illustrated on next page, and held in that position by tying a string around each set of two at each end, by pegs driven into the ground, by clamps, or in any other convenient way.

Common drain tile, 4 or 5 inches in the clear, are sometimes used and recommended for bleaching celery; but this method does not always give satisfaction. I have thought to improve on it, and had some "bleachers" made, 5 or 6 inches high, with 5 inches inside diameter, in shape like bottomless flower-pots. These are placed over the plants, one only for each plant of the self-blanching kinds, and two, or even three—one above the other—for each plant of the common sorts. This



Blanching by Boards.

method in its different phases is illustrated on next page. I have had good success with it, and grown some fine blanched celery; but it seems to me that the expense connected with the purchase and breakage of the pots, and the labor required for storing and taking to and off the field, must prevent the more extensive or general use of this method.

Early in the season, and while the plants are yet growing rapidly, celery bleaches beautifully in from 2 to 3 weeks after banking or boarding up, and is then in first-class condition for use or market. Later it will take 4 or 5 weeks, perhaps even more, to bring the plants out in marketable shape.

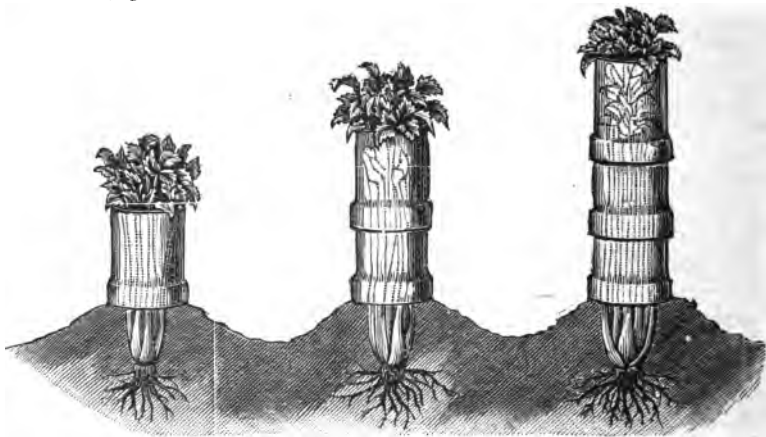
PREPARING FOR MARKET.—When the crop is ready for market, draw the soil away from the plants desired, take hold of the top with one hand and pull, at same time prying under the root with a spade. Thus one plant after another is easily lifted out without breaking a stalk. Shake the soil off the roots, and take the plants to the vegetable house, to be properly prepared for sale. Trim the main root smoothly with three or four sloping cuts; remove the coarse outer leaves, and on one side open the stalks sufficiently to expose the heart in its tempting whiteness. From three to five, or even six of such plants, according to size, are then tied in a neat flat bunch, the exposed hearts all showing on one of the flat sides. The price depends very much on the tempting appearance of the bunches, on neat trimming and skillful tying. Such a bunch, properly put up is shown on page 181. Of course the plants when dug should be

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guarded from freezing; and in cold weather the boxes in which the crop is taken to market, must be provided or lined with matting, coarse cloth, etc.

When speaking of cold frame management, I have already alluded to celery as a crop grown for early marketing as "soup celery," in same way as parsley is handled. During fall and winter, the better outer leaves of the regular crop, and the plants too small for market otherwise, are bunched and sold for soup celery in the same manner. The thinnings from the seed-bed, as well as tops shorn off to induce stockiness, are often similarly utilized during summer.

STORING FOR MARKET.—Celery intended for winter use or winter market only requires handling, but no earthing up, since it blanches perfectly, and with no extra labor, in winter store. Necessary precautions that must be observed are to lift the plant



Celery Bleachers.

on dry days only, and never touch a frozen plant. If these rules are violated, speedy decay will usually follow. The method of winter storage in general use in the market gardens of New Jersey and vicinity is as follows:

On a well-drained spot a trench is dug as narrow as possible, and deep enough that the tops of the plants standing in it will just about reach to the level of the surface. The crop is then taken up, the soil shaken off, and the plants placed perpendicularly, and as closely crowded together as possible in the bottom of the trench. Here they are left until there is danger of severe freezing. Light frosts will do no hurt. The plants thus trenched in early (middle or end of October) may be used directly from the trenches, as wanted, during December. Except at the extreme north, no covering will be needed for them until this time. Roots trenched in during November, which will not be ready for use

before January, need protection. During forepart of December boards a foot wide are laid in single line directly upon the trench, resting with an inch or two on the sides, and in the centre perhaps directly upon the foliage. When a cold night is expected a few inches of soil are drawn or shovelled upon the boards and allowed to freeze. Afterwards (early in the morning) litter of some sort is put over this crust to *keep the frost in*; and this covering, during severe weather, must be increased to perhaps a foot in thickness.

Celery kept in such trenches generally comes out beautifully bleached, crisp and tender. The chief point is thorough drainage, for if water is allowed to stand in the trench, celery is sure to rot. The trench method is probably the best, simplest and safest for a mild climate like that of New Jersey; but in colder localities I would give a genuine root cellar the preference. This gives us easy access to the crop at any time when wanted, and when it would not be safe to open a trench or expose the plants even for the shortest period outdoors. A dug-out in a hill-side, covered over with a substantial roofing of rails, poles, litter and a foot of soil, will answer quite well. Celery houses similarly constructed on the level are used quite extensively by the large growers near Rochester, N. Y., and elsewhere.

Mr. Theo. F. Baker, of South Jersey makes use of a structure of this kind, and says it proves a great convenience, keeping the celery in perfect condition almost any length of time, and saving him a large amount of labor. The stock can be inspected at any time, taken out in cold and rainy weather, or at night, at pleasure, cleaned, washed and packed all under the same roof. Celery once handled can there be bleached in three weeks, and be free from rust or earthy flavor.



Bunch of Celery ready for Market.

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The cellar is 40 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 3 feet deep. The walls, which are 18 inches thick, rise 1 foot above ground. The rafters reach clear to the ground, where they rest on plates placed there to keep the roof from spreading. The ends are weather-boarded on both sides of six-inch studs, and filled in with sawdust. The roof is also double with a sawdust filling. A number of partitions well-lined with paper, and forming two or three, perhaps even four dead-air spaces of two inches each in width, would probably be still more effective and convenient. The height of the house inside is 4 feet at the eaves, and 11 at the peak. A ventilator at the peak admits air when needed, and gives a chance for the escape of heat that may be generated by the mass of celery. A door at each end, a small window over each to admit light, and steps to get down, complete the house.

"In storing the celery," writes Mr. Baker, "posts are set in the ground about 16 inches apart, beginning at each side on one end of the house, and coming toward the centre, giving seven posts or alleys to a side, and leaving a passage-way two feet wide the entire length of the building. Three sets of posts on one side of the passage-way, and four on the other will suit 16 feet boards, two and a half lengths on one side, and two lengths on the other. This leaves a space 8 feet square for washing tank, and room to prepare the stuff for market."

"Beginning next to the wall, we nail a board a foot wide to the post, so that the top of the celery will be even with the top of the board, leaving a space of four to six inches between the bottom of the board and the ground, through which one hand can be thrust to pack the roots firmly while the other holds the tops of the celery over the board. Some loose rich soil is thrown over the roots after the box or trench is filled from end to end. With a hose from the hydrant the soil is given a thorough wetting, and settled around the roots, causing them to throw out new fibres in a few days, when a new growth of the heart commences. Considerable heat will at first be generated by the mass of celery thus stored, and proper ventilation must be given, else rot will surely follow. After the one heating we have no further trouble from this cause."

STORING FOR HOME USE.—A few hundred plants may be stored in a common cellar, standing them upright on a couple of inches of moist soil or sand upon the floor, and dividing them in narrow sections between upright boards, in a similar way as described for celery-house storage. Instead of placing directly upon the cellar bottom, we can make use of narrow boxes (shoe boxes, for instance) putting in a little moist soil or sand, and standing the plants upon this. An improvement on this plan is, to bore inch holes at the ends and sides of the box, four inches

from the bottom, and in packing the plants cover their roots with sand or soil. Keep this moist by watering occasionally through the holes near the bottom.

Unquestionably the simplest, and I find quite a safe method of storing a supply for home use is by packing the plants, already trimmed, almost as closely as for market, in boxes between layers of moist moss, and keeping the latter moist by occasional

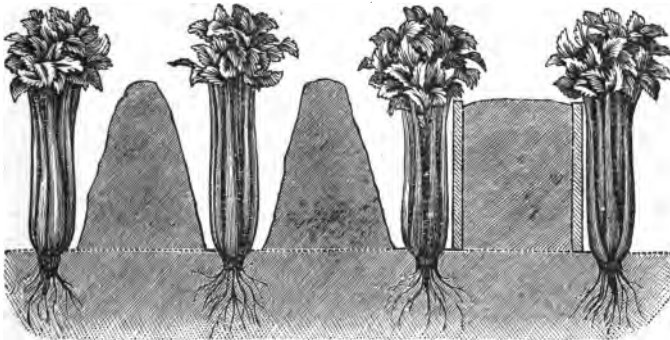


A Southern Celery Bed.

sprinkling. This plan permits of packing celery in the smallest possible space for keeping, and it does keep well even until spring. As a further precaution, however, I would advise to moisten the moss before packing with a weak solution of salicylic acid (a teaspoonful dissolved in a gallon of hot water).

Whatever method of storage is adopted, attention must be paid to two points, namely, *to keep the foliage dry*, to prevent rotting, *and the soil moist*, to prevent wilting.

A SOUTHERN WAY OF GROWING CELERY.—The method which I found in general use from Maryland south, is almost entirely unknown to the northern cultivator; yet its many decided ad-



Southern Method of Handling and Banking Celery.

vantages strongly recommend its adoption, at least for trial, in every northern kitchen garden. It is especially suited for growing the self-blanching sorts.

The ground is laid off in beds 5 or 6 feet wide, with alleys of the same width between them. These beds are usually lowered 3 or 4 inches by shovelling the soil off the surface and throwing it in the alleys.

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An outline of such bed is shown on the preceding page. Fine compost is then applied to the depth of several inches, and spaded or forked into the soil, after which the plants are set in rows one foot wide across the bed, and 6 inches apart in the rows. This is crowding the plants so closely together that they will grow pretty nearly upright without handling. They will

need hoeing once or twice, and in a dry time can easily be watered, or provided with half shade, since the area is so ridiculously small for the number of plants. For convenience in earthing-up, two boards each 10 inches wide, and 7 or 8 feet long, with ends tapering for a handle, are set up on edge between two rows of plants, one to each side, as shown to the right of illustration. Pegs driven into the ground on the



outside at each end hold the boards in position. The space between them is then filled up with soil from the alleys. This work—and earthing-up celery generally—can be done to best advantage by two men, one standing at each side of the bed. When the space is shovelled level full, each man grasps the boards by the handles on his side and presses the upper ends together with a few smart raps, then proceeds to take the boards out, and to insert them in the next row. Thus the soil is left in a sort of ridge between each two rows of

plants, and the handling is done afterwards by hand in the usual manner. The boards are then again brought into use in same way, and the process of earthing-up continued as needed. For winter protection the whole bed is covered up with a thick and well-rounded layer of earth, and further protected with



Crawford's Half-Dwarf.

leaves or litter of some sort. Northern growers who wish to adopt this method, may have to vary it in some respects to suit the circumstances.

VARIETIES.

There is more difference in quality between different lots of the same variety when grown under different conditions and differently managed, than there is between different varieties grown exactly alike and at the same time. As I grow it year after year, forcing rapid succulent growth by the free use of nitrogenous fertilizers, especially of composted hen manure and nitrate of soda (concentrated fertilizers alone will not do for me), I have celery in perfection—white as snow or yellow as gold, brittle as glass, and sweet as a nut. But it is always at its best when freshly dug



Golden Heart.



Golden Self-Blanching.

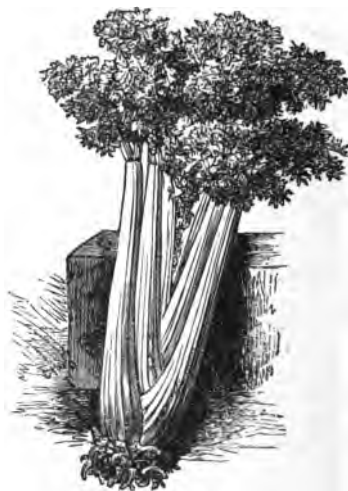
from the bed, in late fall or winter. The early stuff brought to the table in August or

September, whether home-grown or from Kalamazoo, is not to my taste. The self-bleaching celeries need higher culture than the common sorts, otherwise they are liable to be more dwarf than desirable. Their flavor is improved by earthing-up same as other celeries, but they can be made fit for the table by mere

"handling," hence are sometimes, and justly so, called "the busy (or lazy) man's celery." The red or pink celeries are characterized not only by greater vigor of growth than the other classes, but also by very superior flavor, hence deserve to be much more largely grown than they actually are.

The tall sorts formerly grown for market to the exclusion of all others, are now almost gone out of cultivation, and the dwarf sorts have taken their places—very deservedly so, too.

White Plume.—The general favorite among the self-blanching varieties, and especially valuable for early use, both as a table sort and for market. It is quite dwarf, but compact, and decidedly attractive. No grower for any



Fern-Leaved.

purpose should neglect to make the acquaintance of White Plume.

Golden Self-Blanching, of beautiful golden color, but of too dwarfish habit of growth except under highest culture.

Crawford's Half-Dwarf, Henderson's Half-Dwarf, until recently the most popular sort among market gardeners; yellowish white when blanched, of compact habit of growth, and fine quality; very solid.

Giant Pascal.—This variety is an offspring of the Golden Self Blanching, most carefully selected. It partakes of its nutty flavor, and has no bitter taste at all. The stalks are very large, solid, and not stringy, in fact it is the largest celery yet known as to width of stalks. It blanches very easily.

Golden Heart is constantly gaining in popularity, both as a market variety and for the family garden, and well deserves it. Of beautiful golden color when bleached, and fully the equal of Crawford's Half-Dwarf in every other respect. Can be planted with entire confidence. **Kalamazoo** is probably identical with **Golden Heart**.

Large White Solid.—Popular among growers who plant the taller kinds.

Boston Market.—A somewhat branching or suckering sort of rich, nutty flavor. Very popular among the gardeners near Boston. Stalks solid.

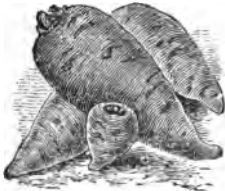
Dwarf Large Ribbed.—Very solid, of crisp nutty flavor; pearly white and an extra good keeper. Largely grown in the Kalamazoo celery districts.

Fern-Leaved, Bouquet.—Very attractive during growth on account of finely-serrated leaves; apparently a strong grower.

New Rose.—Beautiful; vigorous in growth; superior in flavor. Decidedly desirable for the home garden.

CELERIAC OR TURNIP-ROOTED CELERY.

Apium Graveoleus; German, *Knollen Sellerie*; French, *Céleri Rave*; Spanish, *Apio nabo*.—Celeriac is merely a variety of the common celery with abnormal root development, and like others, requires good, rich, mellow soil. It is sown in seed-bed in early spring,



Chervil.

and planted out in rows 18 inches apart and 6 inches apart in the rows. Keep free from weeds and well cultivated, neither handling nor earthing-up being required. The tuberous root is the part used, especially for flavoring soups, etc. Boiled, sliced, and



Celeriac.

served with oil and vinegar, etc., it forms the celebrated dish known as "Celery Salad." Of the various varieties the newer **Apple-Shaped** deserves to be mentioned as one of the best.

CHERVIL—TURNIP-ROOTED.

Chaerophyllum bulbosum. German, *Kerbel*; French, *Cerfeuil Tubereux*; Spanish, *Perifollo*.

The root of this hardy vegetable resembles a short carrot or parsnip; somewhat smaller, of dark gray color, and with yellowish white flesh, which is sweet and mealy, reminding of sweet potato. Chervil, if fresh seed is sown, either in autumn or early spring, is of easy culture, being managed and used in same way

as parsnips. It succeeds everywhere, and is improved by frost. The stalks grow tall and vigorous, and die down early in the season, indicating that the tubers have reached maturity.

CHICORY.

Cichorium Intybus; German, *Cichorie*; French, *Chicorée*; Spanish, *Achicoria*.—Chicory is generally known as a substitute



Chicory.

for coffee. For this purpose the root is roasted and ground. The vegetable is easily grown, somewhat like carrots. Seed should be sown in spring, in drills a foot apart, and plants thinned to about 4 inches distance in the drills. The leaves are sometimes blanched and used as salad. The blanching is



Collard.

done in the cellar. The plants should be taken up at the beginning of cold weather, the leaves cut off $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch or so above the root crown, and placed horizontally in layers, alternating with layers of sand or soil, the root crowns all pointing outward of the sloping heaps, to give them a chance for free growth. If the soil is rather dry, a slight watering may be given. In a few weeks, if the temperature of the cellar is high enough, the leaves will have made considerable growth, and may be used.

CHIVES.

Allium Schoenoprasum; German, *Schnittlauch*; French *Civette*; Spanish, *Cibellino*.

A plant of the onion family, growing in large tufts, perfectly hardy, and requiring no attention after being once planted. Bulbs, oval and small, forming a compact mass. Leaves numerous and slender, and generally used in the raw state as a relish, with bread and butter, etc. Propagated by division of the root. Planted in permanent border, 6 or 8 inches apart.

COLLARD OR COLEWORT.

Brassica Oleracea. Nothing more nor less than common cabbage used while young. It seems to me that one might be satisfied with the good American name "cabbage greens," and as such they are known and used quite commonly in the

southern states. Cabbage seed is sown thickly in rows a foot apart, cultivated as if grown for plants, and cut and used when about 8 inches high. English gardeners cultivate a distinct variety under the name of "Green Rosette Colewort" or Collard.

CORIANDER.

Coriandrum Sativum. German, *Coriander*; French, *Coriandre*; Spanish, *Culantro*.—An annual herb of easy culture, with branching stems, grown for its aromatic seed. It likes light and warm soils. Sow seed in spring, in rows a foot apart, and keep free from weeds.

CORN SALAD OR FETTICUS.

Valerianella Olitoria. German, *Acker Salat*, *Lämmersalat*; French, *Maché*; Spanish, *Canonigos*.—This hardy plant is much grown and used for salads, and freely offered in large city markets. For summer use, sow early in spring, in rows one foot apart, and keep the ground well cultivated and free from weeds. For early spring use, seed is sown in September, and same treatment and protection given as for spinach. Several varieties are quoted in English catalogues, of which **Large Round-Leaved** is as good as any.



Corn Salad.

CORN.

Sweet Corn. *Zea Mays*. German, *Mais*; French, *Mais Sucré*; Spanish, *Maiz*.—Sweet corn for market is emphatically a farm garden crop, but rarely grown in the market garden, since the area required for its culture is by far too large to fit into the market gardener's limited space. On the other hand, really good sweet corn furnishes such a delicious and wholesome dish, one that graces our table, and gratifies our palates for several months every year, that a large part of the kitchen garden (if it be a large one) may be profitably devoted to this crop. In that case it should be our aim to have an unbroken succession all during the season; and we can easily have it by planting the early, intermediate, and late kinds at one time, and then continue to plant a patch of the latest every two weeks until middle of July. Farmers, who usually have but a small garden (certainly much smaller generally than they ought to have), had better plant it with garden crops requiring less room, and devote a quarter or half acre of the regular cornfield to the production of sweet corn for the table. I know there is considerable prejudice in the minds of most people against the free use of "green" corn. I consider

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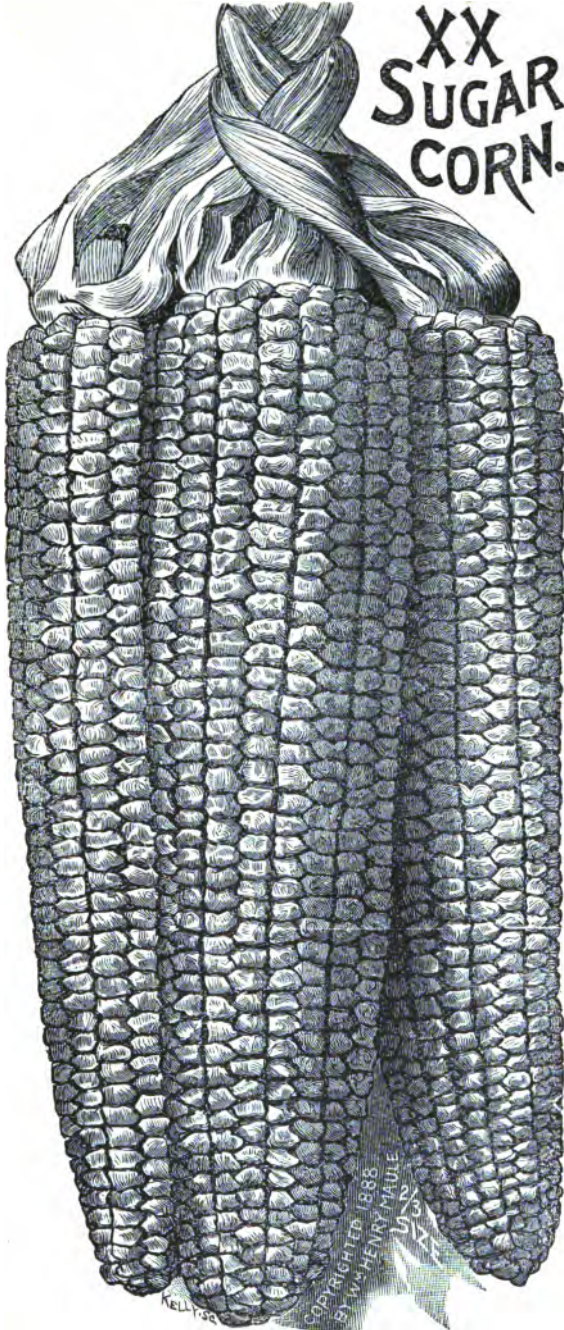
it decidedly wholesome, almost in the light of a natural and needed medicine, and consequently we indulge in it to the fullest limit of our natural appetites, without ever experiencing the ill effects so dreaded by the masses.

As a farm or farm garden crop, I place it far ahead in profitableness to common field corn or potatoes. There are few localities in which a reasonable quantity of good boiling ears could not find ready sale at 75 cents or \$1 per hundred. Where grown for canning or evaporating, of course, the ruling price has to be accepted. I find that I can plant sweet corn closer, and grow at least one-half as many more ears to the acre than I can of field corn, and this even with less labor and risk, and with no greater amount of manure. Consequently the grower easily realizes two or three times the profits on sweet corn that he would on the other.

Sometimes I have wondered why farmers living in a locality where there is a steady and sure annual demand for "roasting" ears at the prices mentioned, go on planting their whole available ground with field corn, which they have to sell at 25 cents per bushel ears, or 50 cents shelled, while so much better opportunities are offered to them in the cultivation of sweet corn.

SOIL AND CULTURE.—Corn delights in warm, well-drained soil; and none is better for it than a rich clover sod. The plant is a quick grower and a powerful eater, and not in the least particular as to the kind of food. Anything in the shape of plant food comes acceptable, even fresh, coarse stable manure. Good crops can be grown in thin soils, if dressed broadcast with from 400 to 800 lbs. of some high grade complete fertilizer per acre, harrowed or plowed in. Sometimes we may plant corn on unmanured land, in the supposition that it is rich enough for the crop; only to find out our mistake afterwards, by seeing the plants at almost a complete stand-still. Even at this late period the matter can be easily remedied in most cases, and a fair crop obtained, by applying a few hundred pounds of the fertilizer per acre as a top-dressing between the rows.

Planting in hills for the purpose of cultivating both ways may be admissible on rough, stony, or gravelly farm land, and for farm crops; but we want none of it in the garden, provided it is such as it should be—long and narrow in shape, and of clean, well-tilled soil. The drill method with corn, and most other crops, gives us an increased yield at no increase of labor; for with skillful management of the narrow-toothed cultivator or wheel-hoe, going twice (back and forth) between each two rows, each time close to the one at the right, the entire surface of a reasonably level and smooth piece of land can be so thoroughly and effectively stirred, that the field will appear as if it had been harrowed all over. While the plants are yet young, in good



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mellow soil, there will be absolutely nothing left to be done with the hand hoe, nor will there be, or at least only very little, later on, if skillful cultivator work is persistently and timely done.

The early dwarf sorts may be planted in drills $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet apart, one stalk every 6 or 8 inches, or two to three plants every 12 to 18 inches; the intermediate varieties need a little more space; and the late tall sorts should have the rows $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet apart, one stalk every 8 or 10 inches, or two to three stalks every 18 inches. The ears are of best table quality when freshly broken off the plants, and greatly lose in this respect by standing about and becoming wilted.

VARIETIES.

Cory Sweet.—I have grown this for a number of years, and consider it by far the best of the earlies, and the earliest of all that are worth growing. Stalk remarkably dwarf, and ear remarkably large for such a small sort. Easily grown and always satisfactory. Tender and sweet.

Early Minnesota, Early Marblehead, and Crosby's Extra Early, are early sorts with small ears, but largely grown for earliest market and home use.

Mexican Sweet, Black Mexican, Blue Mexican.—A second early sort with fair-sized ears. Kernels extremely sweet and tender, and of a dark bluish purple when ripe. Good only for the home garden.

Perry's Early, of vigorous growth, fair-sized ear, and good quality.

Maule's XX Sugar.—Fit for the table in 9 to 10 weeks from planting, and of a most delicious sweet and sugary flavor. It is of comparatively dwarf habit, stalks seldom growing more than 4 to 5 feet high. Remains long in an edible condition, and matures in a comparatively short time for such a large-eared sort.

Everbearing.—Ears are of good size, and covered with kernels clear to end of the cob. Ripening a few days after the Amber Cream, each stalk will produce one to two, and at times four to five, well-developed ears.

Amber Cream.—Medium early, of strong growth. Ears of good size. Kernels amber colored when ripe. Held in high esteem wherever grown.

Evergreen, Stowell's Evergreen.—This is probably the most popular late variety, both for market and home use, of strong vigorous growth, and with large tender ears, that remain in condition for table use for a long time. Also much grown for fodder purposes.

Egyptian, in all its valuable characteristics somewhat similar to Evergreen. Ears very large, tender and sweet. Much grown for canning purposes.

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Gold Coin.—A recently-introduced variety, with as large an ear as Evergreen, but maturing a few days earlier.

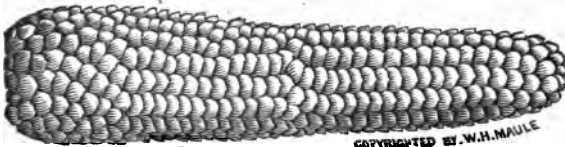
Mammoth Sugar is very late, and produces the largest ears of any variety. Of good quality and superior for canning. Remains long in the green state.

POP CORN.

VARIETIES.

Pop Corn is emphatically a crop for the children, and they would hardly consider the garden complete without a row or two. It is as easily grown as field corn, and while the ears are not very large, their number, especially with somewhat close planting, will go far to make up for lack of size.

White Rice is more generally grown than any other. Ears quite large, a number of them growing on one stalk. Kernels sharply pointed. Superior for popping.



Queen's Golden Pop Corn.

Golden Pop, Queen's Golden Pop. Handsome, prolific and reliable.

Marblehead Prolific.—This new variety is claimed to be the most productive pop corn in cultivation. Ears are eight to ten inches long, filled out to the end with bright handsome white grains.

CRESS OR PEPPERGRASS.

Lepidium Sativum. German, *Kresse*; French, *Cresson*; Spanish, *Mastuerzo*. No vegetable starts quicker from seed, or is easier to grow if the flea beetle is kept off. The leaves have a very pungent taste, and are much used as a salad, usually as a condiment with lettuce and other salad materials. Sow seed thickly in drills one foot apart, guard against flea beetle depredations while the plants are small, and cut as desired. The plants run to seed quickly, and frequent successive sowings must be made, if a constant supply is wanted.

Of the several varieties, the **Curled or Normandy Garden Cress** and the **Extra Curled Dwarf** are generally grown in America.

Water Cress.—*Nasturtium officinale.* German, *Brunnenkresse*; French, *Cresson de Fontaine*; Spanish, *Berro*. This hardy perennial aquatic plant roots readily both in water, and wet

or moist soil, and after once being introduced, will thrive in almost any small stream of clear, cold water, ditch or pond, without care or culture. On account of the pleasant pungency and hygienic properties of the leaves, it is highly esteemed as a table delicacy, and extensively grown for market near all the larger cities. It makes a superior salad, and fine material for garnishing. To introduce it in any stream or body of water, sow seed or a few cuttings or pieces of root in the mud, along the margin, and it will increase rapidly, often entirely overrunning ditches and small brooks. Flooding is the



Water Cress.



Upland Cress.

best winter protection. Gather and market in spring. It also grows well on a moist greenhouse bench, and on any upland that can be kept continuously moist.

Upland Cress, American Cress.—*Barbarea praecox*; German, *Amerikanische Winter Kresse*; French, *Cresson de terre*.—Native biennial of Europe, resembling Water Cress in taste, and used for seasoning and garnishing. Easily grown from seed. I have no high opinion of it, and do not recommend it

CUCUMBER.

Cucumis Sativus. German, *Gurke*; French, *Concombre*; Spanish, *Cohombro*. Under heading of "Cold Forcing Houses" (Chapter XIII) I have already alluded to cucumbers as a profitable crop for culture under glass. Otherwise the bulk of cucumbers and pickles grown for market is produced in the farm garden rather than the market garden, simply because the market gardener has not sufficient space. Almost any kind of well-drained soil will produce cucumbers, provided it is rich enough, or made so. Young clover sod is good. The selection of new ground—wide crop rotation—is always a good precautionary measure, and liable to lessen the dangers from insect and disease attacks.



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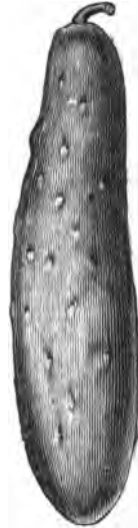
Plow deep and thoroughly, and mellow the surface in the usual manner. Then mark out the ground four feet apart, both ways; put a large shovelful of good compost in each intersection, and mix it thoroughly with the soil. When danger from



Peerless.

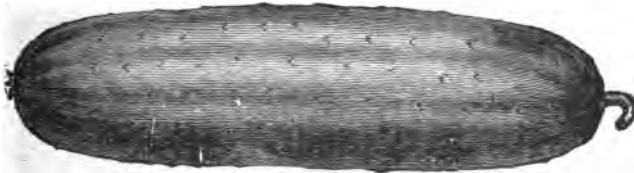


Chicago Pickle.



Tailby's Hybrid.

late frosts is past, plant into the hills thus made, using plenty of seed to make allowance for injury by insects, etc., and when the plants begin to run, thin to the best three or four in each hill. From the time they begin to come up until several leaves are made, they should be kept dusted with plaster or a poisoned plaster mixture, as a preventive for insects. Occasional watering with washing suds during dry weather is of great benefit. Keep the ground well cultivated and free from weeds. It is not desirable to plant or hill up in great mounds, since cucumbers



Evergreen Cucumber.

need considerable moisture to do well. Gather the fruit regularly, without leaving any specimens to ripen, or the vines will stop bearing. For early market, and as a safeguard against insect depredations, the plants may be started on inverted sods under

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glass in same way as mentioned for Lima beans, and also practised with melons and squashes. This is done two or three weeks before the usual period for outdoor planting.

The demand for pickles is largest in the fall, and the planting for pickles is usually postponed until latter part of June or forepart of July.

VARIETIES.

Maule's Extra Early.—A cross between the Early Russian and Green Prolific; as early as the former, while it combines the fine pickling qualities of the latter.



Early Russian.—The earliest variety. Fruit small, growing in pairs, and produced in great number. Good for small pickles.



Early Russian.

Early Cluster, Green Cluster,

Green Prolific,
Early Frame,
Short Green,
White Japan,
Jersey Pickle,
Chicago Pickle,

all these are intermediate sorts, reliable for pickling purposes.

Peerless White Spine,
Evergreen,
Long White Spine,
Improved Long Green,
are popular varieties for table use and large pickles.

Nichol's Medium Green, recently introduced, is a good all-purpose cucumber.



Nichols' Medium Green.

Tailby's Hybrid.—A hybrid of White Spine with one of the large English Frame varieties. Very large and solid, containing but few seeds. A really fine and handsome sort, but not as prolific as I would wish.

Snake Cucumber (*C. Flexuosus*).—More of a curiosity than of practical usefulness. Several feet in length, and always growing in a coil.

Giant Pera.—A newly introduced sort of great length and solidity, having but few seeds.

Small Gherkin, Prickly Gherkin, West India Gherkin, Burr (*C. Anguria*).—A strong-growing plant bearing its small, prickly fruit in great abundance. It is largely used for pickles. Should be planted in hills not less than 5 feet apart each way, with two or three plants to the hill.



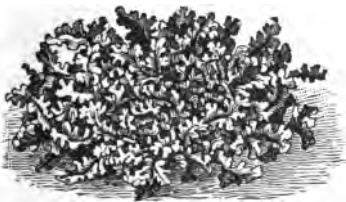
Snake Cucumber.

DANDELION.

Leontodon Taraxacum. German, *Löwenzahn*; French, *Dent-de-lion*.—This common weed of our fields and meadows is often gathered and prepared for “greens.” Esteemed especially for its hygienic properties. Careful selection of seed has resulted in a number of improved varieties, which are cultivated in European gardens, both for spring greens and salad.

Americans are only just beginning to introduce its cultivation into their gardens. I have a mammoth variety from Pennsylvania under trial.

The cultivation is simple. Sow seed in early spring in hills one foot apart, and thin or transplant to from 10 to 12 inches.



Dandelion.

Keep free from weeds. Leaves may be cut for use in fall; and the plantation will continue to yield during the spring of next year. European gardeners often improve the flavor of this vegetable by blanching the leaves, either by covering the bed with a layer of sand or by putting

a large flower pot, inverted, over each plant.

DILL.

Anethum graveolens. German, *Dill*; French, *Aneth*; Spanish, *Eneldo*.—An annual herb of easiest culture, much used by Germans as a condiment, or flavoring for pickled cucumbers, beans, etc. Sow seed in spring or summer, in drills one foot

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apart, and keep free from weeds. Where seed was left to ripen plants will spring up in great abundance the season following. Little attention in the way of manuring or cultivation is required.

EGG PLANT.

Solanum melongena. German, *Eierpflanze*; French, *Aubergine*; Spanish, *Berengena*.—In the cultivation of the egg-plant we have to face several serious difficulties, among them chiefly its half tropical nature, which calls for the display of especial skill in raising good plants, and the great fondness of the potato bug for this particular food.



Long Purple.

GROWING THE PLANTS.—First of all we need strong plants. To start the seed and cause thrifty plant growth, a higher degree of heat and that of longer duration is required than for tomatoes or peppers. A good greenhouse, with heat under full control, is a great convenience in this emergency. The temperature should not be allowed to fall below 70 degrees Fahr. during any of the stages of development. Sow seed during March or early April, and when plants are about an inch high, prick them out in pots or old tomato cans, in good rich potting soil. Where no warm greenhouse is at hand, a fresh hot-bed will have to answer for sowing seed; but the young plants as soon as potted off should be transferred to another, freshly-made hot-bed. Better plants are usually grown in tomato cans, or in large boxes, than in ordinary flower pots.

PLANTING AND CULTIVATION.—Well-drained, warm, rich soil is an indispensable condition of success with this crop. Good compost, or other good fertilizer, should not be spared. When the ground has become thoroughly warmed through, *and not before*, set the plants 2 or 3 feet apart each way—the latter distance in rich soil—and keep well cultivated and free from weeds. Dusting the plants frequently with plaster, especially if a little carbolic acid is mixed with it, has a decided

effect in repelling the potato bug. The plants should be kept well watered, and the soil around them kept loose and free from weeds. The plants are ready for use when the fruits are about the size of a small egg, and the skin is firm and smooth. They are best when cooked in a stew, or with a tomato sauce, or with a meat sauce. They are also good when fried, or baked, or stuffed. They are a very nutritious food, and are well adapted for use in the diet of the sick and convalescent.



New York Purple.

tendency toward making bug visits less frequent; but where these are very troublesome, applications of the Paris green mixtures will be necessary. For a number of years, while in New Jersey, I have tried in vain to save a few plants from utter destruction by bugs in early autumn. When the tops of the late potatoes have died down (in August) it becomes a matter of life and death to the hordes of hard-shell beetles to find a little food. So they all at once pounce in full force upon the egg-plants in the neighborhood, and will devour them even to the stalks, in spite of all the applications we might make. In such cases the only hope for success lies in extensive planting and close watching. If any one can tell me a practical method of protecting a few plants I shall be glad to hear.

VARIETIES.

New York Improved, New York Improved Purple.—This is more generally grown for market than any other; and on account of its mammoth size, handsome shape and color, a great favorite. A selection of this naturally very prickly sort, much grown among New Jersey market gardeners, is entirely free from spines.

Earliest Dwarf Purple.—Too small for market, otherwise resembling the New York Improved, only considerably earlier, and for this reason valuable for home gardens at the extreme north. Here I have little use for it.

Early Long Purple.—Two or three times as long as it is broad. Color varies somewhat. Not much grown for market, but good for the home garden, as it is early and comparatively of easy culture.

Black Pekin.—Almost round in shape, and very dark in color. Quite early for so large a variety.

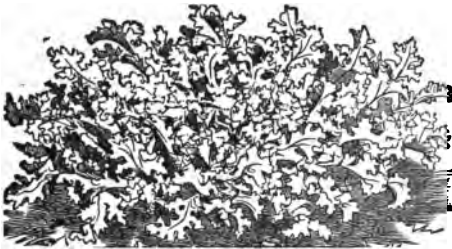
Japanese Varieties.—Of these I have two under test. They appear to be much hardier and easier to grow than other egg-plants, but fruit is small and only valuable for the home garden.

ENDIVE.

Cichorium Endivia. German, *Endivien*; French, *Chicorée Endive*; Spanish, *Endivia*.—Endive, one of the best of fall and winter salads, is not yet appreciated in America as it deserves. Practically unknown in the average home garden, it is found only in larger markets, and often there in but limited quantity. If my readers will once try it, and bring it on the table well bleached, crisp and tender, as a salad, in late fall or winter, I think they will continue to grow it, thus adding to the luxuries of their table.

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Its culture is simple; its requirements as to manure and soil are modest. For summer use sow seed in April or May; for fall and winter use in June, July, and early August. Have drills one foot apart, and thin or transplant to same distance in the drill.



Endive.

Hoe occasionally to keep free from weeds; and when the plants have made about their full growth, gather up the leaves and lightly tie at their tips. In from one to three weeks the hearts will then bleach beautifully, when the crop should at once be mar-

keted or used. Do not tie faster than the crop can be disposed of; for if left after blanching, the hearts will soon begin to decay.

I have succeeded in bleaching endive in less than a week's time, and much more beautifully than usually seen, by simply placing one of my celery bleachers (largest size) over each plant.

VARIETIES.

Green Curled.—Generally grown for market and home use, and good for salad, greens or garnishing. European catalogues list and describe nearly a score of other varieties, among them the **Moss-curved**, **Rouen** or **Stag's Horn**, **Green Curled Upright**, **Broad Leaved** or **Batavian**, etc.; but the **Green Curled** will do me.

FENNEL; LONG SWEET FENNEL.

Anethum Fœniculum. German, *Fenchel*; French, *Fenouil Doux*; Spanish, *Hinojo*.—The seeds of this easily-grown herb are used in the manufacture of liquors, and the leaves for various culinary purposes. Sow in drills one foot apart, like Dill, and keep free from weeds.

GARLIC.

Allium Sativum. German, *Knoblauch*; French, *Ail Ordinaire*; Spanish, *Ajo vulgar*.—A well-known bulbous perennial of peculiar strong taste, mostly used by the foreign part of our population, and valued more in southern countries than at the cold north, for the simple reason that it has much less of the biting flavor when grown in a warm than in a cold climate.

This vegetable—if it deserves that name—is only propagated by means of its sets or “cloves,” of which each full-grown plant has about ten. In early spring plant them in shallow one-foot drills, about 5 or 6 inches apart in the drills, one clove in a place, and cover lightly. The crop ripens about the same time as onions, and is harvested in a similar manner.



Garlic Sets.

GOURDS. Fancy Gourds.

None of these are grown or used here for culinary purposes. Fruit of various shapes and sizes, often quite ornamental, and unique. Plant in hills, and train on trellis.

Nest Egg Gourd (*Cucumis colocynthis oviformis*).—Plant strong growing. Fruit white and resembling a hen's egg in size and shape. Often used as a nest-egg, and answering this purpose admirably.



Dipper Gourd.

Dipper Gourd (*Cucurbita lagenaria*),

Sugar Trough (*Cucurbita lagenaria*),

Dish Cloth (*Cucurbita lagenaria*),

The fruit of all these is sometimes used for the purpose indicated by their respective names. When bruised, all the green parts of the plant emit a strong odor which is far from agreeable, while the flowers are quite fragrant. All are of rapid growth, and valuable for covering trellises, arbors, and unsightly places of any description, but of no use to us as a kitchen vegetable.

HOREHOUND.

Marrubium vulgare. German, *Andorn*; French, *Marrube Blanc*.—A perennial hardy plant easily grown from seed sown in spring, or propagated by a division of the tufts. The plant is much used as a cough remedy, especially in the form of "horehound candy." Plant in drills one foot apart.

HORSE-RADISH.

Cochlearia (Nasturtium) Armoracia. German, *Meerrettig*; French, *Raifort Sauvage*; Spanish, *Taramago*.—Horse-radish is hardly ever found in the home garden as a cultivated vegetable. It is allowed to propagate itself at will from pieces of root left in the ground where a plant had once been set out, or otherwise obtained a foothold, usually in the back-yard or some out-of-the-way place. From this source the family gets an abundant supply year after year, without ever bestowing care or attention to it.

For both the market and farm garden, however, horse-radish is a most important crop, and almost invariably a profitable one. It delights in deep, rich, moist soil; and requires but a minimum of cultivation, since it makes a very large amount of top, thus giving the weeds little chance, at the same time keeping the ground well-shaded, moist and mellow.

PLANTING AND CULTIVATION.—Horse-radish produces no seed, but is always grown from "sets" or pieces of the smaller roots, cut 4 to 8 inches in length, with upper end slanting and lower end square. For culture in the farm garden, the ground is well-manured, deeply plowed, and otherwise thoroughly worked; then marked out in rows from 2 to 3 feet apart. Here the root pieces or sets are planted 15 to 18 inches apart. This is done by making a hole with a long slim dibber or planting stick, or a small, light iron bar, and dropping the set, square-end down, into it, so that the top end is left slightly below the surface. The soil is then pressed firmly against the set. With cultivator (or wheel-hoe) and hand-hoe the ground is kept free from weeds, until the heavy top growth makes further working among the crop unnecessary.

The eastern market gardener adopts a somewhat different course. With him horse-radish is chiefly grown as a second crop, yet planted almost simultaneously with a first crop. It usually is made to follow early cabbages, cauliflower or early beets. Just as soon as the first crop is planted, the horse-radish sets are put out, in the manner described, in a row midways between each two rows of the first-crop vegetables,

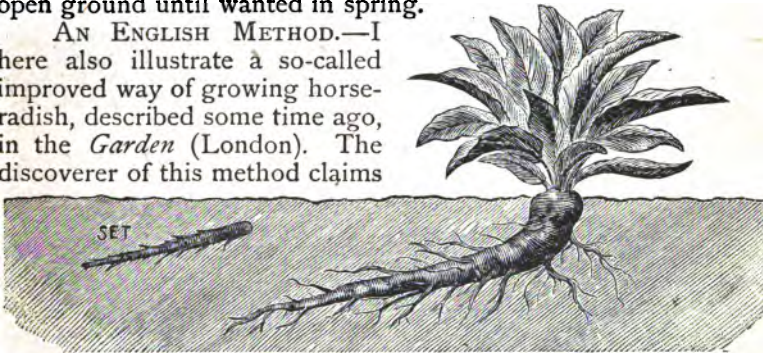
so to stand 2 or 2½ feet one way by 16 or 18 inches the other. The sets are put in deep enough so the upper or slanting end will be about 3 inches below the surface of the ground. This is done to give the first crop time to get out of the way before the horse-radish appears on the scene. In the cultivation of the former no notice is taken of the presence of the horse-radish underneath, except to clip off any sprout foolhardy enough to come to the surface prematurely. Horse-radish makes the most of its growth during the cooler and moister weather of early autumn. When the first crop is taken off, its opportunity has come, and it generally makes the most of it. It will need one thorough hoeing, and may then be left to take care of itself. The crop is dug late in the fall, or after all other crops are taken care of, freed from its small roots and large tops, and stored in root houses or pits, to be marketed during winter. A root when ready for market, appears as in annexed



Horse-radish. illustration. Being trimmed at both ends, it is given a thorough washing, and a number of them are then tied together in a bunch, and thus put on the market. It is usually sold by weight, and one of the best paying late crops.

The small roots are used for sets. When removed from main root they are at once cut of the proper length and shape, tied in bundles, and buried in sand in the cellar or pitted in the open ground until wanted in spring.

AN ENGLISH METHOD.—I here also illustrate a so-called improved way of growing horse-radish, described some time ago, in the *Garden* (London). The discoverer of this method claims



A New Way of Growing Horse-radish.

that the roots, being so much nearer the influence of the sun, and in warmer soil than those planted perpendicularly (in the usual way) grow to a much larger size, and are harvested with much less labor than they would otherwise. The sets are planted only from 2 to 3 inches deep, almost horizontally, as indicated in illustration, and given the cultivation as described for those planted in the usual way.

HYSSOP.

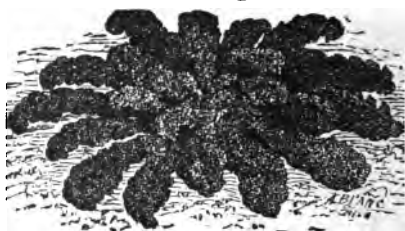


Hyssop.

Hyssopus officinalis. German, *Isop*; French, *Hyssope*; Spanish, *Hisopo*.—A low-growing, evergreen perennial, preferring warm, calcareous soil. In cold climates it is usually grown from seed sown in the open ground in April or May. The leaves and other parts of the plant have an aromatic odor, and pungent, bitter taste.

KALE OR BORECOLE.

Brassica oleracea acephala. German, *Braunkohl*, *Grünkohl*; French, *Chou-vert*; Spanish, *Breton*.—This vegetable of the cabbage family is grown and used in various ways, most usually as "sprouts" for winter greens, similar to spinach or collards. Sow seed in early autumn, having drills one foot apart, and leaving the plants five or six inches apart in the row. South of New York City it is hardy enough to endure the winters without protection. In spring the plants are cut, dead leaves trimmed off, and put up in barrels for sale, or used for greens. The Germans usually plant kale as one would late cabbages. Seed is sown in spring, and the plants set out in June or July, in rows three feet apart, with two or three feet distance between the plants. Same cultivation is given as for cabbages. During early winter the leaves, which grow to a considerable size, are gathered frequently when frozen, or to be dug from under the snow, and used for greens. If properly prepared they are exceedingly palatable, especially as they come at a time when fresh green stuff is quite scarce. The young sprouts issuing in spring from the stumps are also utilized for greens; and when boiled and served with vinegar, make a very popular and palatable salad.



Kale.

VARIETIES.

German Greens, Dwarf Curled, Sprouts, Green Curled, Canada, Labrador, with beautifully curled, dark green leaves, which usually rest on the ground, the plant being quite dwarf. Usually grown for market as "sprouts." Tender and of superior flavor, almost equaling Savoy cabbages.

Green Curled Scotch, Winter Greens.—Very hardy, two to three feet high, has many large and beautifully curled leaves, which, after exposure to frost, make excellent winter greens, and sprouts for spring salad. The plant is one of the hardiest of the whole tribe.

European seedsmen list a large number of varieties, little grown in America, among them the following :

Intermediate Moss Curled.

Tree Cabbage, or Jersey, which grows four to five feet high in the first year ; for cattle.

Marrow Kale, a large, coarse sort, with thickened stem, for cattle.

Dwarf Purple Curled, with very dark, curled leaves, much used for winter greens.

KOHL-RABI.

Brassica Caulo-rapa. German, *Kohlrabi* ; French, *ChouRabe* ; Spanish, *Col de Nabo*.—In this we have another vegetable much less cultivated in American gardens than it deserves. As easily grown as any member of the cabbage family, it yields in its swollen, fleshy stem a most palatable dish, which combines the cabbage and turnip flavors, but in a more refined degree. It is deliciously tender, especially when used just when fully grown ; but when old, becomes hard, tough and unfit for the table. The usual method of culture is to sow seed in drills, 15 or 18 inches apart, and thin to 6 or 8 inches in the row. The time for sowing is from early spring until summer, so that a succession may be had from early summer until winter. Keep the ground loose and free from weeds. With careful handling, kohl-rabi can also be transplanted successfully.



Kohl-Rabi.

VARIETIES.

Early Vienna, Improved Imperial.—This, unquestionably, is the best for forcing, late planting, and for general table use. The tops are very small and leaves short, with slim stalks ; the balls (bulbs, heads or whatever we may call them) handsome, forming very early, and retaining their delicious tenderness for a long time. There is also a purplish variety of this in cultivation.

Large White.—The balls form much later in this than in the preceding and grow to a large size. The leaves also grow large, with stout leaf-stalks, so that it is easily distinguished from the Vienna by its much heavier top. Requires nearly the whole season to come to full development. For the kitchen garden it will be found a good companion to the Vienna. If both are

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planted at the same time, in early spring, the one will supply you with tender balls in the forepart, and the other in the latter part of the season.

LAVENDER.

Lavandula Spica. German, *Lavendel*; French, *Lavande*; Spanish, *Espliego*.—Lavender leaves are sometimes used for seasoning, but the chief value of the plant is in its flowers, which are used in the manufacture of the well-known perfumery. Grows in compact tufts with numerous stalks two feet high. Perennial, and generally propagated by division of the tufts, sometimes by cuttings, and in rarer cases from seed. Set the plants 15 or 18 inches apart, and keep free from weeds. They will last a number of years, succeeding best in light calcareous soil.

LEEK.

Allium Porrum. German, *Lauch*; French, *Poireau*; Spanish, *Puerro*.—Leek, although but rarely found in American home gardens, is quite extensively cultivated as a second crop, to follow early beets, cabbages, etc., in the market gardens near



Giant Italian Leek.

cities having a large foreign population. The ground should be rich from previous manurings, and receive an additional dressing besides.

CULTIVATION.—In April or early May sow seed in seed bed, having rows one foot apart, and cultivating same as onions from seed. In July, the young plants, then about as thick as a goose quill, are planted out on soil cleared from the earlier crop and well prepared, in rows one foot

apart, with five inches distance between the plants. They should be set deeply (with a dibber) since their market value depends on the bleached condition of the root and stalk. For the same reason, the soil, in hoeing, is drawn up towards them. Leeks transplant very easily at any time while the soil is moist, but the loose roots and leaves should be trimmed back, and the roots dipped in water, previous to setting.

The crop may be stored and wintered somewhat similar to celery, in trenches or root-houses, or marketed directly from the field in the fall. The decayed leaves are to be removed, roots and tops cut back, and the plants, after washing, tied in bunches of half a dozen or more, and marketed.

VARIETIES.

Long Flag, Large Flag, Broad Flag, London Flag.—Often ten inches long, and nearly two inches wide. A good early, productive sort, and popular with our market growers.

Scotch Flag, Musselburgh.—A form of the common long leek, somewhat hardier than the Large Flag, and with a stem sometimes 10 or 12 inches long, but only an inch in diameter.

New Giant Italian is introduced as a variety of very large size, hardy, and of mild flavor. Perhaps identical with the **Giant Carentan** introduced in England.

LETTUCE.

Lactuca Sativa. German, *Salat*; French, *Laitue*; Spanish, *Lechuga*.—The production of lettuce in hot-beds and hot-houses during winter, and in cold-frames and cold-houses in early spring, is one of the chief resources for money for a large number of market gardeners. The chapters on "Cold Frames" and "Cold Forcing Houses" deal more fully with this subject. As an early market garden crop for outdoor culture it is, perhaps, of still greater general importance.

GROWING FOR MARKET.—Plants are usually grown from seed sown in open ground in latter part of September, transplanted into cold-frames (allowing 4 to 5 square inches space to each) toward end of October or early November, and wintered over in same way as early cabbage plants. Just as soon as the ground is in working order in early spring, the plants are set out in warm, rich, well-manured and well-prepared soil, 12 by 10 to 12 inches apart, all by themselves, or in rows between early cabbages or cauliflowers. The latter plan is often adopted by good market gardeners for the sake of utilizing space. The lettuce crop comes off in time to give to the other crop the entire space, long before it is needed, and for this reason is almost clear gain. To a more limited extent lettuce is also grown for summer and fall market from seed sown in one foot drills in open ground; the drills one foot apart, and the plants thinned to about the same distance.

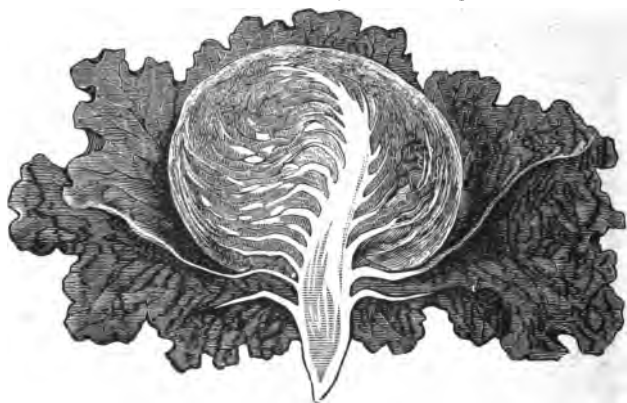
In favored localities in the middle states, and almost everywhere further south, lettuce sown or planted out in open ground in the autumn will usually winter all right, especially if protected (when thought necessary) by lightly covering with evergreen

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boughs, or coarse litter, and will give a crop much in advance of that planted out in spring. It should go without saying that the stimulus given to plant growth by free use of the hoes cannot be safely dispensed with in the lettuce patch.

GROWING FOR HOME USE.—People who know lettuce only as loose leaves (cut-lettuce, leaf-lettuce) grown in close rows or masses, as usually found in American kitchen gardens, have not yet learned to appreciate the possibilities of this vegetable as salad material, nor all its inherent virtues. My method of growing it for home use brings out all its best points.

At the earliest possible date in spring I sow seed of various varieties in drills 12 to 15 inches apart, and give clean and thorough cultivation from the start by means of the hand wheel-hoe, same as all the other closely planted vegetables in the patch.



Hanson.

Strict attention is given to early thinning, the most vigorous plants being left, so they stand about 3 or 4 inches apart in the drills. Rapid growth is forced by occasional light dressings of nitrate of soda (a little saltpetre will give similar results); and as soon as the heads have fairly begun to form, we commence using them for the table, thinning the plants as we go along, until they stand 10 or 12 inches apart in the rows. By this time they have developed into large heads, sometimes of mammoth size, and of the delicious crispness and tenderness which only rapid growth can give us. Thus we have always the very best quality of salad, the little partly-developed heads at first, and later the hard, solid, large ones. As we always have it in great abundance, the crisp inner hearts alone are used, and the large outer leaves go to the fowls. Thus grown, lettuce makes a most excellent salad, indeed, above all comparison with the stuff usually found in the markets, or in most people's kitchen garden. Repeated sowings should be made for succession.

For earliest use I often set a row of cold-frame-wintered (or hot-bed-grown) plants between two rows sown with early cabbages, which is merely a modification of the method of growing lettuce for early market in alternate rows with cabbages.

VARIETIES.

These are exceedingly numerous; and many new varieties, both for market and home use, are being introduced every year. Indeed we have so many really good sorts that the selection of a few is not without difficulty. Yet we can take any one out of dozens of them, and feel perfectly satisfied with our bargain.

Tennisball, Boston Market.

—Well adapted for forcing under glass; very early, of medium size, and a reliable header.

Salamander.—A favorite with eastern market gardeners, and yet in the front rank as a market



Green Fringed Salamander.



Ohio Cabbage.

variety, as it makes large and firm heads, and endures the summer heat well, although in the latter respect it is now surpassed by many newer introductions.

Hanson.—An old favorite for market in the New England States. A good, reliable header, but perhaps surpassed in many

characteristics by the recently introduced **Improved Hanson**.

Boston Curled and

Green Fringed.—These form somewhat loose heads, and therefore not adapted for market purposes; but their curled or fringed masses of foliage make them attractive for the home garden.

Buttercup.—The most delicate appearing of any lettuce I am acquainted with. Only medium in size, but the heads are firm, and foliage of a most pleasing beautiful golden color, which would naturally suggest the name given it. It is one of the varieties that has come to stay in my garden.

Ohio Cabbage.—A beautiful summer lettuce, of very large size, firm head, tender and reliable. Also good for early.

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California Butter.—A long-standing summer variety, making large, firm heads with dark foliage.

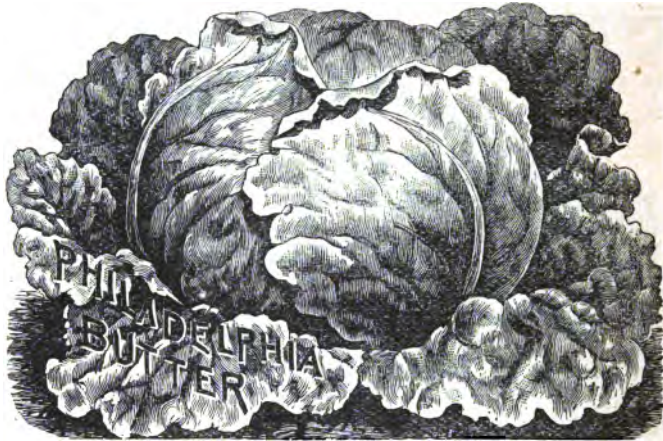
Marblehead Mammoth,

New York.—Those two are newer sorts of remarkable thrift, giving us heads of the very largest size, but somewhat lacking in compactness. Beautiful and well worthy a place in the home garden.

Stubborn-Head, Stubborn-Seeder.—Introduced as a fine, firm-heading variety, able to endure the summer heat and drouth for a long time, and without running to seed.

Prize Head.—Forms a large, tender and crisp mass of leaves of superior flavor.

Passion.—A California variety that stands the heat remarkably well, and at the same time forms a very large solid head.



Philadelphia Butter.—Produces fine heads of large size; very certain to head.

Cos Varieties.—These are favorites in England, but little grown in our gardens. Leaves elongated, with a large thick mid-rib. The hearts are blanched by tying the tips of the leaves, which have an upright habit of growth.



Sweet Marjoram.

MARJORAM (Sweet.)

Origanum Majorana. German, *Majoran*; French, *Marjolaine*; Spanish, *Mejorana*.—The leaves and young shoots of this perennial sweet herb are highly esteemed by many people as a seasoning, and Mother's marjoram-flavored "veal pot-pie" will not easily fade out of my memory. The plant is cultivated as an annual, and of easy culture. Early in spring, sow seed in shallow drills, one foot apart, and keep free from weeds.

MARTYNIA.

Martynia proboscidea. German, *Gemshörner*; French, *Martynia*; English, *Unicorn Plant*.—An annual of easiest culture; plant large, strong-growing rather coarse, yet decidedly interesting. Flowers large and similar to catalpa in shape; fruit curved, and terminating in a long, hooked point. While young and tender it is frequently used for pickles. Sow seed where plant is to grow, giving each a space of 2 or 3 feet square. If seed is allowed to ripen on the plant, and to scatter upon the ground, plenty of plants may be expected to spring up the following season.



Martynia.

MELON—MUSK.

Cucumis Melo. German, *Melone*; French and Spanish, *Melon*.—Where climatic conditions in the northern states, and shipping and marketing facilities at the south are favorable to their culture, melons constitute a very important money crop of the farm garden. For the home garden they are almost indispensable everywhere. I believe there are few things, if any, that are a more general object of desire for the younger members of the family, or would be more painfully missed by them, than a good supply of fine melons; and I am sure no household that has once had its fill of the fruit, in all its freshness and lusciousness as it comes directly from the garden, will ever wish to forego the pleasures of the melon patch again, even for a single season.

SOIL AND CULTURE.—A rich, warm loam, more or less sandy, and plenty of good compost or fertilizers are required. New land—on the wide rotation system—is always preferable, in order to reduce the dangers from insect and disease attacks to a minimum, and nothing better could be found very easily than a young clover or old pasture lot. Plow deep, and otherwise prepare the ground well, then mark off rows from 4 to 6 feet apart each way, according to the strength of the soil, and vigor of variety to be planted. A shovelful or two of well-rotted compost is mixed with the soil at each intersection, and a large broad hill formed with the hoe.

Next drop a dozen or two of seeds scatteringly over the hill, and cover with half an inch of soil, pressing it firmly over the seed with the back of hoe. Only the three or four thriftiest plants are left in each hill; the rest must be pulled up at the

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first or second hoeing. Cultivate frequently with the horse wheel-hoe, and hoe afterwards, drawing fresh soil up to the plants. Guard against the attacks of the yellow-striped cucumber bug, the squash borer and other insects; and keep free from weeds.



Perfection.

I usually pinch off the ends of leading shoots when they have grown several feet in length, for the purpose of forcing out the laterals, on which the fruit is always borne. In early September I also remove the later settings of fruit, which cannot be expected to come to maturity before frost. For shipping and marketing, melons must be picked when yet green, but fully matured, so that they will be in best condition for the table when they reach the consumer. In order to make the crop earlier, and at the

same time protect the plants from bug attacks, they are frequently started on pieces of inverted sod, in hot-bed or cold-frame, in the same way as described for Lima beans. Care should be taken to make the transfer from frame to open ground on moist, cloudy days only; then cultivate same as directed for plants started in open ground.

VARIETIES.

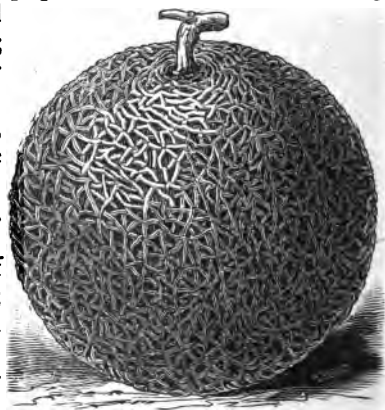
Hackensack.—The most popular market sort among growers near New York City and in New Jersey. Large, round; depressed at the ends; deeply netted and productive.

Cassaba.—A large, long, green-fleshed melon of same excellent quality as Nutmeg. Can be recommended for market, as well as the home garden.

Nutmeg.—Green-fleshed, of delicious flavor. Size medium; round in shape; prolific; good for market and home use.

Early Christiania.—Very early, of fair size; productive, and valuable for early market.

Netted Gem.—Quite small, thick-meated, of fine flavor, and extremely early.



Superior.

Perfection.—Nearly round, and of good size, frequently weighing 8 to 10 pounds. Of a dark green color outside, heavily netted, while inside they are of a rich orange color. Flesh very thick, there being scarcely room for the seed. Can be recommended alike for either home or market use.

Starn's Favorite.—This variety is nearly round, just a little oblong, thickly netted, with thick green flesh; rich and spicy and one of the best-flavored in cultivation. They are shy seeders; the cavity for seed in many of them is so small that if they were all seed inside the flesh, they could not contain many.



Jenny Lind.—It is surprising that this, a most delicious 'small melon, is so little known outside of the State of New Jersey. There it is more largely grown than any other, and thousands upon thousands of baskets are annually shipped to the Philadelphia and New York markets. It is the earliest of all green-fleshed sorts.

Superior.—Ripens about the same time as the Jenny Lind, a strong and vigorous grower. So attractive in appearance that it is sure to command good prices.

Emerald Gem.—Plant and fruit small. The latter has a smooth, deep-green skin and salmon-colored flesh, unsurpassed for sweetness, richness, and lusciousness. Almost solid, containing but few seeds, and ripening thoroughly clear to the thin skin. When ripe it separates from the stem; but being of inconspicuous color, and inferior size, the "small boy" is apt to pass it by. This feature, combined with its unexcelled high quality and sweetness, renders it indispensable for the home garden. The markets also are just



Banana.

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beginning to appreciate its fine qualities. It can be planted in hills only 3 or 4 feet apart each way, two or three plants to the hill.

Bay View.—A white-fleshed, oblong variety, with green, netted skin. Medium sized.

Montreal, Montreal Nutmeg.—A mammoth variety, much grown under glass at the northeast. I did not find it of much value for outdoor culture in New Jersey.



Hardy Ridge.

Osage.—A Western market sort; green fleshed, small, round, netted.

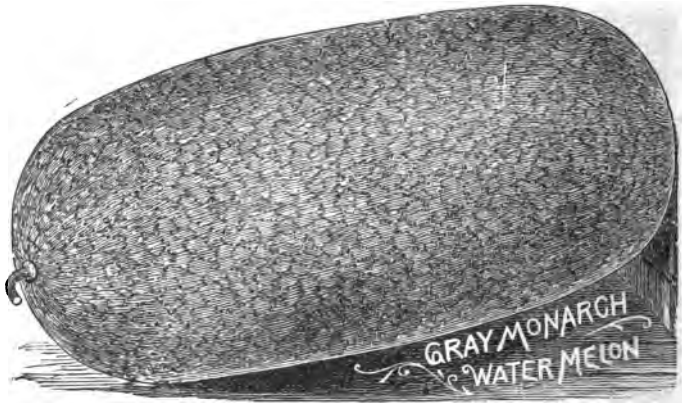
Banana.—Grows 18 inches and upward in length, and only 2 to 4 inches in thickness. Flesh thick, solid, reminding somewhat of bananas.

Algerian Canteloupe.—Flesh thick and juicy, sweet and having a delicate aroma. Fruit round, slightly elongated, with many roundish dark green warts or scabs, which change to an orange color when fruit is ripe.

Prescott, Hardy Ridge.—Thick fleshed, salmon colored; few seeds. This and the preceding are favorites with Paris (France) growers. Not grown to any extent in America, except as curiosity.

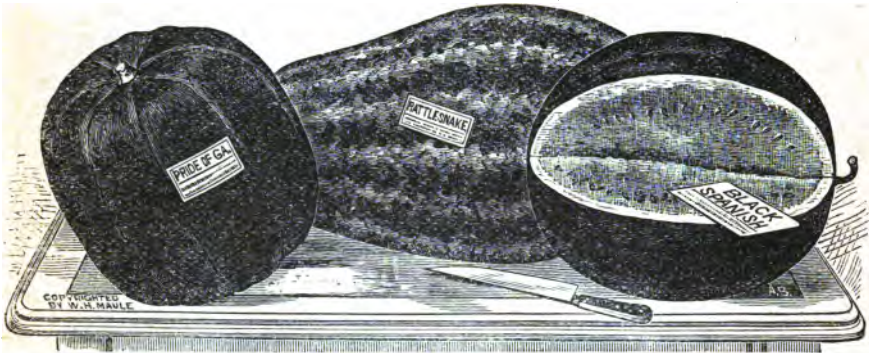
MELON—WATER.

Citrullus Vulgaris (*Cucumis Citrullus*). German, *Wassermelone*; French, *Melon d'eau*; Spanish, *Sandia*.—Culture of the water-melon is very similar to that of the musk varieties, except

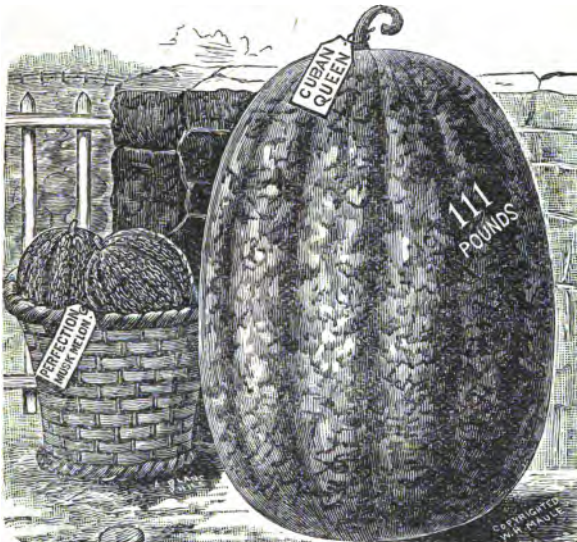


that the soil, if anything, should be warmer and richer, and the hills made from six to ten feet apart each way, according to vigor of variety and strength of soil.

The chief difficulty for the novice is to tell when the melons are fit for market or consumption, as they should not be picked too soon, nor left on the vines after the proper stage of maturity has been reached. The tendril or curl on the vine opposite the



melon generally dries up and dies just about at the time when the melon ripens; but this is not always the case, and hence the sign is not infallible. A safer indication even than this is the turning of the whitish underside of the fruit (where it rests upon



the ground) to a sort of cream color. Experienced growers and dealers simply snap the melon with the middle finger, and tell the ripe from the immature melon by the difference of sound. The skin of the melon also becomes somewhat duller in color when

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approaching maturity, and somewhat firmer. The novice should compare ripe and green specimens, and try to note all these differences.

VARIETIES.

**Mountain Sweet,
Mountain Sprout,**

Black Spanish.—In these we have three old, but reliable sorts, still much grown for market. They are large, sweet and good.

Vick's Early.—A small, early, solid melon, valuable for the home garden.

Kolb's Gem.—Much grown for market on account of its earliness. Nearly round, flesh bright red.

**Scaly Bark (Florida Favorite),
Seminole,
Georgia Rattlesnake,**

**Pride of Georgia,
Cuban Queen,
Gray Monarch,**

Mammoth Ironclad.—All these are large melons, extensively grown at the south for northern market.



Vick's Early.

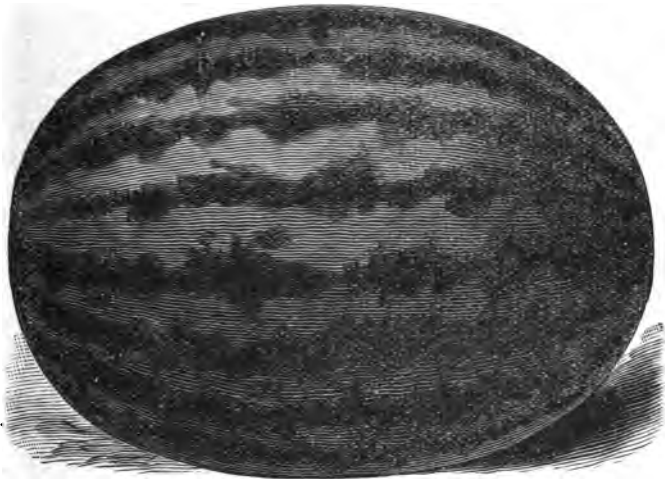


Colorado Preserving.

Hungarian.—Introduced a few years ago as a superior sort for the home garden. Medium size; skin dark green; flesh sweet, melting, brilliant red. Vine strong grower, productive.

Volga.—After two seasons' trial I am disposed to place this ahead even of the preceding as a reliable sort for the home gardener. Distinguished by the light color of its rind. A thrifty grower, enormously prolific, early, of medium size, and to my taste unsurpassed in quality. If I could plant but one variety in the home garden, this is the one I would unhesitatingly select.

Prize Jumbo.—This new melon is a cross between the Ironclad and Cuban Queen. In color dark-green, striped with lighter shades of the same color; flesh of a rich cardinal color,



Prize Jumbo.

free from strings. The rind, while unusually thin for so large a melon, is so tough it will bear transportation in first-class condition for very long distances.

Green and Gold.—Name comes from its rich green color outside, while the flesh is of a golden orange color, free from any tinge of white, even around the seeds. In productiveness it equals any of the red-flesh varieties; has a thin rind. It makes a desirable ornament for the table, if arranged in contrast with the red flesh of other varieties.

Christmas.—None surpasses this in vigor of vine. Fruit late, large, and of most remarkable keeping qualities. I had them last season in December, kept in a common cool room upstairs, and they were sound and palatable.

Colorado Preserving.—A productive sort for preserving and sauce. Flesh firm and solid; seeds few; vine thrifty.

MINT.

Mentha viridis. German, *Krauseminze*; French, *Menthe*.—A hardy perennial, often found in great masses along moist roadsides, near swamps and low places. Easily propagated by division of the creeping root-stock. In a small way it is forced under glass, for winter and spring market, and the growers find it very profitable. The leaves and young shoots are used for seasoning, mint sauce, and for flavoring liquors.

MUSHROOM.

Agaricus campestris. German, *Champignon*; French, *Champignon*; Spanish, *Seta*.—The very first and most important requirement for the successful production of mushrooms is a dark, damp place with an even temperature ranging from 50 to 70 degrees. This may be a common cellar, a cave, railroad or other tunnel, under the greenhouse benches, or in a building constructed or arranged for the purposes and heated with pipes.



Mushroom Spawn.

In proper situation mushrooms can be raised the year around, and it is done on a large scale in natural caves or abandoned tunnels in this and other countries. One of these mammoth mushroom factories is said to be in successful operation near Chicago, run by a stock company; and more chances equally good for starting an enterprise of this kind might be found in various parts of the country. It is reported to be a paying business.

For culture in a common cellar or other place, on a limited scale, the best time for active operations is from the beginning of September until January. Take fresh horse droppings without long straw or litter, and mix it with one-third of its bulk of fresh loam, or finely cut-up sods from an old pasture, and put in a heap to heat. Turn frequently (perhaps once a day) until the first violent heat has nearly subsided. Then spread a layer of it, four feet wide and as long as desired, upon the place intended for the bed. This may be on the ground or on shelves. Beat the layer down firmly with a wooden mallet, or other convenient implement; spread another layer of the manure mixture upon the first, and beat down solidly once more, repeating this, if necessary, so the bed, when finished, will be about 8 or 10 inches in thickness.

Now insert a thermometer in the centre of the mass, and again allow the first violent heat to subside. When the temperature has been reduced to 85 or 90 degrees, the bed is ready for planting the spawn.

Break the bricks of spawn into pieces of the size of a small egg; then make holes 2 inches deep, and 10 or 12 inches apart each way, all over the bed, and drop a large piece, or two smaller ones, into each, afterwards filling the holes with the manure mixture, and again beat the beds down smoothly and evenly. Then cover the whole with two inches of fine loam firming it with the back of spade or shovel.

In a dark cellar and even temperature of from 55 to 60 degrees the mushrooms will appear in from 5 to 8 weeks. If the cellar is rather light, the bed had better be covered with 6 inches of hay or straw. In a reasonably damp cellar watering will not be necessary; but in a dry one warm water should occasionally be sprinkled over the bed with a fine rose sprinkler. A little nitrate of soda, or saltpetre, dissolved in the water will, I think, be found of great advantage in lengthening the bearing period of the bed. The spawn can be obtained of any large seed house.

MUSTARD (White Mustard.)

Sinapis Alba. German, *Gelber Senf*; French, *Moutarde blanche*; Spanish, *Mostaza blanca*.—Annual of rapid growth and easiest culture. The leaves while young are used for salads and for garnishing, and are of pleasant pungency. Sow seed in drills one foot apart, and keep free from weeds. The ripe seed is variously used in the preparation of pickles, and when ground makes the chief ingredient in the well-known condiment on sale in groceries under the name "Mustard." Some years ago I saw a variety of mustard in the south, where it was grown under the name "Curled mustard" for greens and for salad. Each plant formed a great mass of beautifully curled leaves, and I grew it for two seasons, then accidentally lost the seed, and have not been able to find a new supply. Probably this is a sport or selection of the Chinese Cabbage-Leaved mustard.



Mustard.

NASTURTIUM. (Indian Cress) Dwarf.

Tropæolum Minus. German, *Kapuziner Kresse*; French, *Capucine petite*; Spanish, *Capuchina pequena*.—Annual of easy culture, and like the climbing form (*T. Majus*) more frequently found in the flower garden and border than in the kitchen

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garden. The flowers of both forms are sometimes used for garnishing, and the young seed pods, pickled in vinegar, for seasoning. Sow seed in border, or in rows one foot apart, thinning to 4 or 6 inches apart in the rows.

OKRA.

Hibiscus esculentus. French, *Gombaud*; Spanish, *Gombo* (*Quimbombo*).—The plant succeeds in almost any soil, being an



Nasturtium.

annual of easy culture. Little grown in the north, but quite popular in the southern states, where the young and tender seed vessels are used as a table vegetable, in the form of soups and stews, to quite an extent. These pods are apt to grow somewhat tough at the North. Sow seed in rows $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, and thin to



Okra.

9 or 12 inches apart in the row. Cultivate same as corn.

VARIETIES.

Dwarf Green, Improved Dwarf Green.—An early and productive sort of low growth.

Long Green.—Plant dwarf; pods long and ridged.

White Velvet.—Introduced as having very large, round smooth pods. Very productive.

ONION.

Allium Ceba. German, *Zwiebel*; French *Oignon*; Spanish, *Cipolla*.—Onion growing presents itself to our consideration in three materially-differing aspects, namely, culture in the market garden, culture in the farm garden, and culture in the kitchen garden. This vegetable, as a crop, is of value to the market gardener chiefly in the rôle of "bunch onions," *i. e.*, grown from sets, pulled and bunched in the green state when only partly developed, and thus put on the market. The sets, like mature onions for market, are chiefly grown by people who make it a specialty, and in farm gardens more remote from the larger market centers. Some of our market gardeners, however—probably induced by the high price which they are often compelled to pay for sets—, now grow not only enough to supply their own needs, but a surplus for market besides.

GROWING SETS.—The selection of soil is of greatest importance. It should be of a sandy nature, or even clear sand, free from weed seeds, rubbish and coarse gravel, and at least moderately fertile. A good top-dressing of some good fertilizer may be sufficient. Weedy manure must be scrupulously avoided. Such land needs thorough preparation. After plowing, the harrow and roller should not be spared, and the Meeker small disk harrow, or a steel rake, is needed to put on the finish. What we want is a perfect, smooth, mellow seed-bed. The seed is sown thickly in rows, either by hand or with the drill. The rows may either be made 9 to 12 inches apart, and sown in the usual way, only more thickly, or from 15 to 20 inches apart, and sown scatteringly in a strip 2 or 3 inches in width. I prefer the drills 12 inches apart, and to sow in a strip of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width, which allows of the convenient use of the wheel-hoe.

SOWING.—The easiest method of sowing onion seed for sets is with one of the common garden drills, and in doing so, I usually let the seed run moderately free, and go twice or even three times over the same row, thus sowing the required quantity, and at the same time spreading it over the desired width in each row. To give a full crop, the plants have to stand pretty thick. It is always an advantage to roll the ground after sowing.

For sowing by hand, the rows should be marked out with a marker having wide blunt teeth, in order to make wide marks, and allow the seed to be scattered over a wider space across the rows. The covering is done with both hands, the gardener moving along over the rows on his knees, and drawing the soil over the row from both sides, or with the feet in the way quite commonly practiced for covering the larger seeds.

The amount of seed needed ranges between 40 and 60 pounds per acre, according to distance between the rows, and width of sowing. The aim is to grow bulbs of less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, and the largest bulk without undue crowding. The varieties used for this purpose are Extra Early Red, Yellow Dutch, and Silver Skin.

CULTIVATION AND HARVESTING.—Cultivation is given in the usual way, with wheel-hoe; and weeds are pulled up by hand without thinning the crop.

When the tops begin to die down, in August, the bulbs are harvested, either by lifting out with the onion set attachment of the Planet Jr. wheel-hoe, or by raking in windrows, 5 or 6 rows together, care being taken, of course, to get the teeth well *under* the bulbs. They are left on the ground for 2 or 3 days to cure, and then taken under shelter, and spread out on a dry floor to be cleaned at leisure. This is done by rubbing the sets between the hands, to remove remnants of tops and roots, and adhering soil or sand, and by running through fanning mill

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afterwards. All bulbs that will not readily pass through a grain sieve with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch meshes are too large for sets and should be sold or used for pickling onions.

Another method of harvesting consists of running a large garden trowel lengthwise under the row, lifting up the bulbs, with soil adhering to them, and throwing into a small-meshed sieve to sift out the sand and soil.

STORING.—In storing for winter the bulbs (sometimes mixed with chaff) are piled up 4 or 5 inches deep in a dry loft, there allowed to freeze, and covered with a foot or so of straw or hay until spring. Or they may be stored in shallow open crates, and protected from alternate freezing and thawing.

GROWING BUNCH ONIONS.—The ground should be put in best possible condition. Use 50 or more tons of good compost per acre, besides top-dressings of poultry manure, wood ashes, fertilizers, etc., not to forget of nitrate of soda. The same thorough preparation is required as for growing sets. Then mark out the ground in rows 9 to 12 inches apart, and plant the sets 2 or 3 inches apart in the rows. This is best done by picking up the set between thumb and forefinger, top up, and press firmly down into the soil. Thus they can be planted quite rapidly. Then cover still more soil over them with the feet, firming at the same time, and roll. Afterwards keep the ground loose and free from weeds by the frequent use of wheel and hand hoes, and at earliest date commence to bunch and market. While small, a dozen bulbs may be required for a bunch; later on 6 or 7 will be sufficient.

There is still another method of growing early bunch onions, and when successful, is more convenient, and often more profitable than the one described, as it requires less labor and expense, and gives an earlier crop. Seed is sown during August or September (perhaps later at the South), in drills one foot apart, and at the rate of 6 or 8 lbs. of good seed per acre. At the north this method is risky, and the whole crop may winter-kill; but even in an exposed situation in Western New York, I have occasionally succeeded in carrying the crop through without any effort at protection, and without loss. Covering with evergreen boughs, or coarse litter may be a wise precaution. In the middle and southern states there is nothing, to my knowledge, that could hinder growing bunch onions on this plan with complete success.

GROWING THE BULB FOR MARKET.—This, as a business, sometimes pays, and sometimes it does not. The financial outcome depends on management, and on the season's prices. Onion growing in the farm garden can easily be overdone. Only last year thousands of barrels of as fine onions as were ever grown had to be left to spoil, or were fed to stock, for want of buyers at even 25 or 30 cents per barrel.

An *average* onion crop is not likely to ever yield big returns, but a *large* one (the result of plenty of manure and high culture generally) with a fair market price, always pays the grower reasonably well. The premium in this, as in all other undertakings, is invariably awarded to skillful management.

SOIL.—A good crop can be produced on soil of almost any composition (sand, sandy loam, clay loam, clay, muck), provided it contains a fair amount of decaying organic matter; but it should be free from weed seeds. Use the richest soil you have; thin soil if no other can be had; and sandy loam in preference to others. Muck lands sometimes produce enormous crops, but the bulbs are not as firm as those grown upland. Land in fine tilth, perhaps having been cropped with carrots, beets, cabbages, or other vegetable crops, is usually given the preference, and justly so; but a young, rich, clean clover sod, thoroughly worked, is seldom less profitable, and often more so, than old ground.

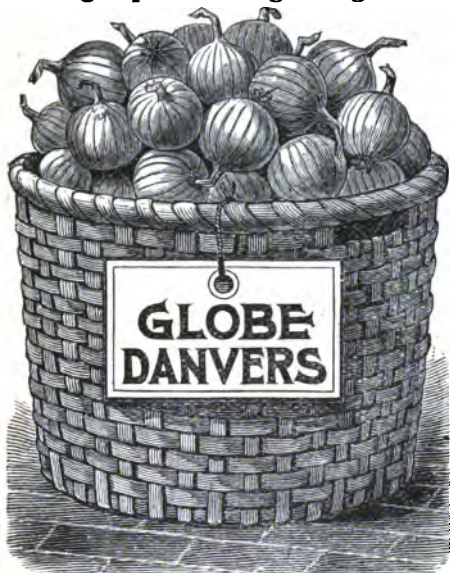
Manure and prepare the land as thoroughly as described for the production of bunch onions, being particularly careful to avoid manure which contains live weed seeds, for the greatest expense connected with onion growing is the destruction of weeds.

SOWING SEED.—The torrid heat and prolonged drought of August should find the crop ready for harvesting. Consequently it is absolutely necessary for best success to sow as early in spring as the ground can be got in working order, perhaps by the help of fall plowing and laying off in beds. In the middle and southern states fall sowing may be practicable, and should at least be tested in every locality there. Here we usually sow in April, seldom in March.

When the Meeker disk-harrow (or the steel-rake) has left the ground perfectly smooth and fine, good, plump, water-cleaned seed, that stands at least 75 per cent. germination test, is sown with the garden drill in rows 12 inches apart, at the rate of four or five pounds per acre. Most growers sow further apart, 16, 18, or even 20 inches; but I consider this a useless waste of space and opportunity, since the yield per row will be the same, whether the rows are 12 or 20 inches apart, and the narrower planting, with no greater outlay for manure and tillage (weeding excepted), increases the crop in exact proportion to the increased number of rows. The style of wheel-hoe to be used perhaps influences the question of width of row somewhat. A Ruhlman, going *between* the rows, works to best advantage when the rows are 14 or 16 inches apart; while the Planet Jr. (and any other row-straddler) can be profitably run among rows that are only 12 inches apart. The roller in the rear of the distributing tube and hopper, in our modern seed drills, firms the soil sufficiently to insure prompt germination of seed under common circumstances.

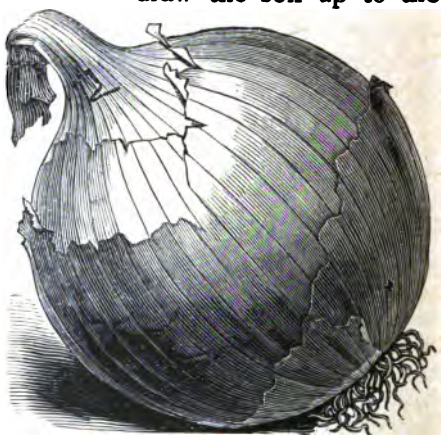
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CULTIVATION.—Usually the young plants will begin to appear above ground inside of two weeks, and now an energetic and unceasing fight against weeds begins, which lasts all through the larger part of the growing season. Use the wheel-hoe early



and often, and never attempt to do without one of these tools in the onion patch, as this would almost exclude any possibility of making it pay. The weeding has to be done on hands and knees, early and often enough to suppress all weed growth. One of the hand-weeders, a common table knife with blade sharpened on both sides and bent in a curve, or a common iron spoon, can be used to advantage in scraping away the soil from the growing plants, and with it all weeds just starting in the row. Never draw the soil up to the

onions, as they grow best on top of the ground. A second top-dressing of fertilizer, or of wood-ashes, at the time when the bulbs have made about half their growth, often has the happiest effects. Still I consider repeated applications of nitrate of soda, say at the rate of 100 pounds per acre each time, of more consequence than any other top-dressing I know of. Early attention should be directed to the proper thinning. At the second weeding the plants must be left to stand not less than 2 inches apart in the rows. Remove the weaker—always leave the strongest plants. In subsequent weedings a narrow-bladed hoe may be used, thus allowing the work to be done in a standing position.



Prizetaker.

I cannot lay too much stress on the great importance of timely action in every stage of the proceeding. A few days' neglect in cultivating or weeding may increase the amount of labor required to such an extent as to double the cost of crop, at the same time greatly reducing the yield.

HARVESTING.—When the bulbs have reached their full size and maturity, as indicated by the dying down of the tops, the crop is ready to be harvested. Pull the onions by hand, or rake them out by means of a dull steel rake; taking great care to avoid cutting into them; then leave in windrows on the ground to cure. Afterwards twist or cut off the remnants of tops and roots, if there be such, and try to sell the crop immediately from the field. If this cannot be done, store in a rather thin layer on a dry floor or loft, until they can be disposed of. I would not advise the novice to attempt wintering even a part of the crop, as this is a task which involves risk even for the more experienced.



Wethersfield.

ONIONS IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN.—For home use we want variety at all times, consequently we should plant a few sets to give us an early supply of bunch onions. This we do in the way already described for market growing, setting them in a row or two among our regular patch of closely-planted vegetables. We also desire onions for late use, and so we must also sow seed of



Yellow Dutch.

various varieties, a row or so of each. Here the general rules given for culture in the farm garden should be closely followed. The thinning can be done gradually, and the young plants thus pulled out of the rows will supply the kitchen with onion material and onion flavor during the larger part of summer, and until the bulbs mature. For convenience and uniformity's sake we allow the same space between rows as adopted for all the other small stuff, 15 inches being the usual and most convenient distance between the teeth of the hand marker designed for use in the home garden. Seed is usually sown by hand, but if a garden drill is handy, and seed is to be sown in larger quantities than single small packages, by all means use the drill.

I have discovered still another method for growing onions, both for early and late use, and I consider it of the greatest value. I am sure it is by far the safest and best way of raising mammoth bulbs for exhibition purposes, and it has other important advantages besides.

A NOVEL METHOD.—In February, March or April, start plants by sowing seed thickly in a well-prepared cold frame, and as soon as the open ground can be worked, prepare it in the same thorough way as directed for bunch and seed onions, using the *best of manure without stint*. Mark out the patch with a hand-marker at the usual distance, and set the young plants 3 inches apart in the row, or even 4 inches for the large foreign sorts which succeed admirably under this treatment. The part intended for early use as "bunch" onions need not be planted further than 2 inches



Extra Early Red.

apart. Every other one may then be pulled up and used in an early stage of growth, and the remaining ones be left to come to maturity.

I recommend this method with fullest confidence as a most excellent one, and I believe that even the market gardener (and perhaps the farm gardener also) may find points of merit in it which will recommend it to him for trial. It reduces the expense for seed to a minimum; and while requiring considerable labor in setting the plants (although youngsters might be employed for this purpose to advantage, and with a saving in wages), it dispenses with most of the tedious and delicate hand-weeding. This work can be done very conveniently by means of wheel-hoe and hand hoe alone. My new method also makes the crop uniform, and by lengthening the growing season of the fragrant bulb, adds to its individual size, and to the aggregate yield.

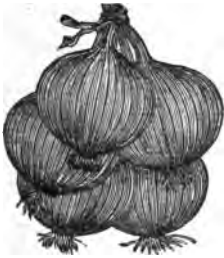
I practice this novel method myself—am not merely preaching it. Under this season's most unfavorable circumstances my Prize-taker onions, grown in this way, yielded at the rate of considerably above 1000 bushels per acre.



White Globe.

VARIETIES.

Our list of standard market sorts is not so very large, and often we have but little choice in this respect. On the other hand the strains and selections of the different kinds are numerous, and greatly differing in merit. Of the Danvers Yellow, for instance, we have strains of almost perfect globe shape, others more or less approaching it, and from this every grade to the flat shape of the Yellow Dutch. Some strains are so improved, by careful selection, that the scallion is a rare occurrence among them, while others



Rocca.



Top Sets.



Silver Skin.

give a large proportion of thick-necked bulbs. Our first concern, therefore, is not only to get *fresh* seed, but also the best strain of the best varieties. Repeated trials of the seeds offered under guarantee by leading seedsmen will give you the desired information about their worth.

Wethersfield, Wethersfield Red.—The leading red market variety, large, coarse, reliable and exceedingly prolific. Skin deep purplish-red; flesh white; flavor strong. Unsurpassed as a keeper.

Danvers Yellow, Yellow Globe Danvers.—Undoubtedly the most reliable market variety, and one of the most prolific. Early, good-sized, as round as a ball, and smooth as an apple, neck very small, flesh fine-grained. Cannot be praised too highly.

White Globe, Southport White Globe.—The most popular white market sort. Beautiful silvery-white in color, and of perfect globe shape. Large, prolific, reliable. Should be cured in the shade, otherwise it is apt to become discolored. Keeps well.

Red Globe, Southport Red Globe,

Yellow Globe, Southport Yellow Globe.—These resemble the White Globe in every way except color.

Yellow Dutch, Yellow Strassburg.—Prolific and of fine flavor. Shape rather flat. Largely grown for market, and almost exclusively for yellow sets.

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Extra Early Red.—Desirable for early market. Hardy, reliable, growing quickly to fair size. A good keeper, and especially valuable for red sets.

Silver Skin, White Portugal, Philadelphia White.—Largely grown for pickling and for white sets. Of mild pleasant flavor, and decidedly handsome appearance.

Maule's Prizetaker.—This I consider the finest of all onions with which I am acquainted. I have grown almost every variety listed by seedsmen; but have never found one as large in size nor as handsome in shape and general appearance. This variety looks for all the world like the imported Spanish onion, which is sold in our fruit stores at five cents or more per pound.

White Barletta.—The earliest and smallest onion; excellent for pickles.

New Queen.—Another small, handsome early pickling onion, good keeper. White.

Silver King, Mammoth Silver King.—Introduced as the largest of all onions. Skin silvery-white, flesh remarkably sweet and tender.

Giant Rocca of Naples,

Giant Pompeii,

Mammoth Red Tripoli,

Giant White Tripoli, etc., etc.—All these are Italian varieties of quick growth, large size, remarkably mild flavor, but not long keepers.

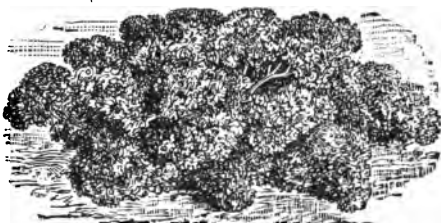
Potato Onions.—These produce no seed, and are always grown from the bulbs, which when planted, increase in size, and also produce a cluster of bulbs around the one planted. I have had excellent success with it in New Jersey, and seen it do well in southern Pennsylvania and sections south of these localities. Profitable for market, and entirely reliable.

Egyptian Perennial Tree Onion.—This is probably grown more for its tops, to be used during winter for soups, etc., than for its bulbs. It is entirely hardy, and after once planted, can be had from the garden almost the entire year. I do not value it very highly.

PARSLEY.

Apium Petroselinum. German, *Petersilie*; French, *Persil*; Spanish, *Peryil*. Grown to a limited extent in market and home gardens. The leaves are used for seasoning soups, and for garnishing. Market gardeners sow for early supply in cold frame, or between rows of other vegetables. Seed is slow to germinate, and an early crop like radishes or lettuce can be taken off in time to give to the parsley the needed room. When large enough, the tops are repeatedly cut, and tied in little bunches for

market, each containing about as much as can be encircled by thumb and forefinger. For later use, seed may be sown in open ground, in drills 12 inches apart. A little patch will go a great ways towards overstocking the market, and half a dozen plants, well fed, will be sufficient for a family garden. For winter use the leaves may be dried; or a few plants taken up and trenched in like celery. Or you may have a few plants growing in a box or keg in the kitchen or cellar, or under the greenhouse bench. To grow it in the latter way, the plants should be started from seed in the fall.



Double Curled.

VARIETIES.

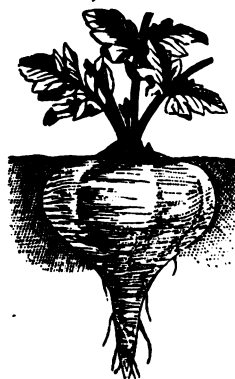
Plain or Common.—Somewhat hardier than the curled sorts, and good enough for seasoning.

Double Curled, Extra Double Curled.—A beautiful variety with thick, curled foliage, and suitable both for flavoring and garnishing.

Fern-Leaved.—Foliage most beautifully serrated, excellent for garnishing.

PARSNIPS.

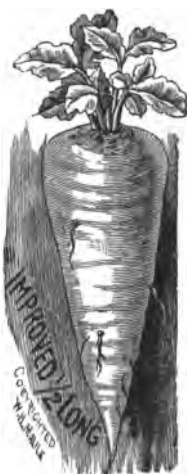
Pastinaca Sativa. German, *Pastinake*; French, *Panais*; Spanish, *Chirivia*.—Parsnip



Early Short Round.

culture is very similar to that of the carrot, and the vegetable has about the same value as a garden and farm crop, and for stock feeding. Sow in April or May in rows 12 to 18 inches apart, being careful to use *new* seed only; and thin the young plants to 3 or 4 inches apart. The plants start slowly and feebly at first, somewhat like Parsley, but soon get strong and able to take

care of themselves. Soil should be clean and moderately rich. Parsnips are perfectly hardy, and their flavor is improved by



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frost. That part of the crop which is wanted for use or market during the winter, should be dug before the ground freezes solid, and stored in root cellar. The balance is left in the ground, and will carry through the winter without loss. For stock in early spring it is very superior—equal to carrots—and the easy way of wintering gives to parsnips a great advantage over all other root crops.



Long
Smooth.

VARIETIES.

Long Smooth.—The old standard variety, with very long roots. Large and reliable.

Hollow Crown, Student, Improved Half Long.—Roots handsome, and very clean-skinned; crown despressed or hollow. A superior half-long table variety.

Round, Early Short Round.—Very early; roots short and chunky, somewhat like a turnip in shape. Decidedly the best for very shallow soils.

PEANUT.

Arachia hypogæa. German, *Erdnuss*; French, *Arachide*, Spanish, *Chufa*.—The peanut is an important farm crop for Virginia and other southern states; and while interesting everywhere, it is very unreliable north of Philadelphia, as it requires a long season to bring it to maturity. In the northern home garden it will especially interest the young people, and the newly introduced "Spanish" or "Improved" nut should be tried just on this account where the common Virginia peanut cannot be expected to ripen. Select warm soil, if possible of a calcareous nature; mark out rows 3 feet apart, and drop the nuts about a foot apart in the



Improved "Ground Pea" or Peanut.

rows, one in a place, and cover with 2 inches of soil. It is not necessary to remove the hulls or shucks before planting. Cultivate and hoe freely, leaving but one plant in a place; and keep the soil well mellowed up around the plants when seeds (nuts) are forming. It is quite interesting to observe the flowers as they insert their ovaries into the mellow soil, where they complete their growth and form nuts. Before freezing weather the plants are dug, or pulled up. Hang under a shed to cure; then gather, clean and sort the nuts.

VARIETIES.

Common Virginia.—The common market sort of the south, and found in every fruit store in America. Prolific, nuts large and well scattered.

Spanish Improved.—Several weeks earlier than the preceding. Nuts all growing in a compact cluster near the main stalk, and can be harvested by simply pulling up by hand. Pods small but well filled. Worthy of trial at the north.

PEAS.

Pisum Sativum. German, *Erbse*; French, *Pois*; Spanish, *Guisante*.—In green peas we have an important crop for both the garden and the farm. The profits may not be so very large, but the product is always salable, and brings early money. Nor is it necessary that the soil be so very rich or heavily manured. I found no garden crop that I can grow with greater ease and certainty merely by a moderate application of some good complete fertilizer—say 500 or 600 pounds per acre. Peas seem to be partial to potash, and this in some form alone, or together with phosphate (in ashes) frequently give as good results as complete manure. Peas do best in the fore-part of the season, and should be planted early, as those planted late for "succession" hardly ever turn out very satisfactory. Sow in drills, 2 to 3 inches deep, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, according to vigor of variety and strength of soil. When grown for market the first aim should be to get the crop ready for sale at the earliest possible date.

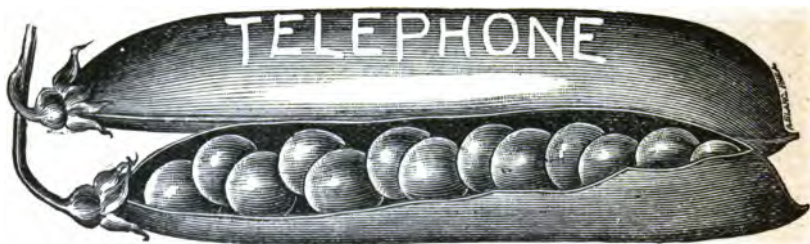


Earliest of All.

For the home garden I prefer to sow the best sorts—early, medium, late and latest—as early as I consider it safe, and often all at one time. This gives me a succession for 3 weeks or more,

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which is fully sufficient for my purposes. I also look with disfavor upon the practice of brushing; hence plant chiefly the more dwarf sorts which do not require support.



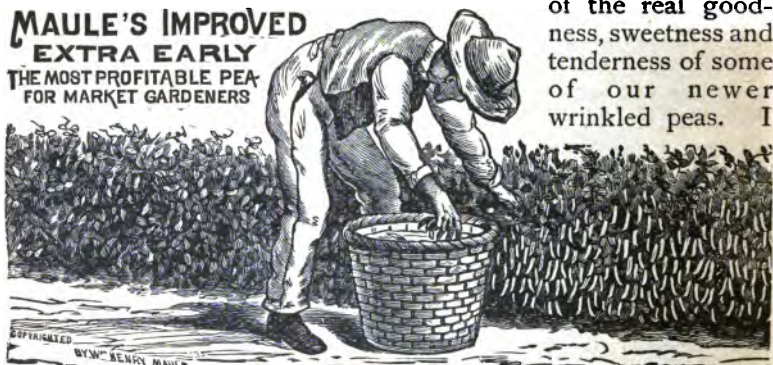
The sowing is usually done by hand in drills opened to the proper depth, and seed scattered pretty freely to insure a full stand.

VARIETIES.

Garden peas are classed in three great sections; namely, (1) the round or smooth peas; (2) the wrinkled peas; and (3) the edible-podded or sugar peas. The round or smooth sorts are harder than the others and can therefore, be planted earlier. Although all peas are usually classed as perfectly hardy, it is nevertheless a fact that a large percentage of the seed annually planted rots in the ground, merely because the ground at the time of planting is not warm enough for germination.

The majority of farmers plant only the common smooth kinds, chiefly Black-Eyed Marrowfat, both for home use, and for market; and neither they, nor their village customers are aware

MAULE'S IMPROVED
EXTRA EARLY
THE MOST PROFITABLE PEA
FOR MARKET GARDENERS



of the real goodness, sweetness and tenderness of some of our newer wrinkled peas. I

confess I have no appetite for the Black-Eyed Marrowfats, and others of that class, and do not want it on my table, so long as I can just as well have wrinkled sorts, that are as much superior to them as cream is to skim-milk. Besides this the wrinkled sorts have larger and better-filled pods, and peas of very much

larger size, while the plants perhaps are only 12 or 18 inches high. Our children, for instance, would pick three baskets of Stratagem, or Yorkshire Hero, etc., as quickly and easily as they could fill one of the Black-Eyed Marrowfats.

Earliest of All,

Maule's Improved Extra Early.—These two sorts are the only ones of the very early smooth kind, with which I have been entirely pleased. Pods are good-sized and well-filled, and the peas of very good quality. A few days earlier than Little Gem, and decidedly prolific. Good for both market and home use.

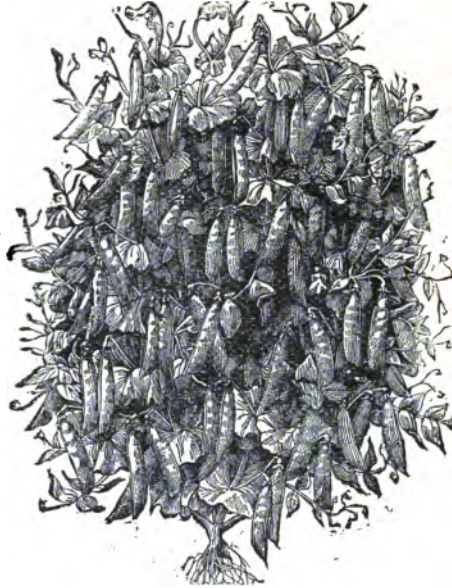
Alaska,

Daniel O'Rourke,

Philadelphia Extra

Early,

First and Best.—In these we have other and very popular market



Bliss' Everbearing.



American Wonder.

varieties of the first early smooth class. All of this kind are somewhat similar in general characteristics, and grow from 1½ to 2 feet high.

Black-Eyed Marrowfat.—Very popular with farmers for general use, and as a field variety. Good bearer; pods large and well-filled. A late, smooth variety.

Blue Peter, McLean's Blue Peter,

Blue Imperial, Dwarf Blue Imperial,

Blue Beauty.—These blue-seeded smooth varieties bear numerous and well-filled pods;

and the peas are large and handsome, but not equal in flavor to the wrinkled kinds.

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Little Gem, McLean's Little Gem.—A leading and reliable first-early wrinkled sort, with well-filled pods, and of fine quality.

Premium Gem.—Resembles the preceding, and is said to be an improvement on it.

American Wonder.—A very dwarf, very early wrinkled pea, of unsurpassed quality. Grows seldom more than 6 to 8 inches high; and should be planted only on very rich soil, where highest culture is given.

Abundance, Bliss' Abundance.—Half-dwarf, branching, exceedingly prolific. Pods large, well-filled, I might say overcrowded. Wrinkled and of fair quality. Late.

Bliss' Everbearing.—Similar in outward appearance to the preceding, but of vastly better quality. In this respect really one of the very best of all peas. Late.

Stratagem.—One of the finest peas in existence. Plant dwarfish, branching. Pods of very largest size, and crowded with peas which are of largest size and remarkably rich and sweet. Late.

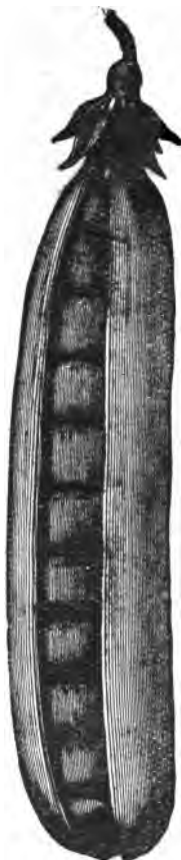
**Prince of Wales,
Yorkshire Hero,**

Telephone.—These beautiful wrinkled sorts should be tested in every garden; pods and seeds large and the latter sweet and rich. Late.

Champion of England.—The old popular late wrinkled sort. Plant 4 or 5 feet high. Pods and peas of fair size and numerous. Peas of choicest quality.

New Perpetual.—A real summer pea, worthy its name. A strong grower, branching, and seemingly inexhaustible in productiveness. Late, and continues to produce its large and well-filled pods until fall. Peas very large and of fine quality, tender, rich and sweet.

Dwarf Sugar.—A low growing sort, bearing edible pods. None of this class are used to a very large extent in this country.



Stratagem.

PEPPER (Chili Pepper.)

Capsicum Annuum.—German, *Piment Pfeffer*; French, *Piment*; Spanish, *Pimento*.—Easily grown in almost any rich soil, and almost any location of the United States. Plants should be started early in hot-bed or green-house,

and treated similarly as tomato or egg-plants; but they do not require near as long a season as either of them to produce a crop. I usually sow seeds in boxes or flats, often rather crowded, and in early June transplant from there directly to open ground, 2 or 2½ feet apart, and plants 15 inches apart in the rows. Soil of a warm, sandy character is given the preference. I stimulate the plants to thrifty growth with liberal dressings of hen manure, and perhaps wood ashes, and thus have rows that for thrift and amount of fruit are beautiful to behold. I usually sell some of the peppers; a very few are utilized in the household, in preparing pickles and chowders, etc., and the rest are chopped up and mixed with other stuff to be prepared as a warm breakfast for the hens during fall and early winter.



Ruby King.

VARIETIES.

Ruby King.—Too much cannot be said in its praise both as a market and family variety. Fruit very large, brilliant

red, well-shaped, always smooth, and of mild flavor. Prolific.



Red Cluster.

Large Bell, Bullnose,

Sweet Mountain.—

These are the principal older market sorts; early, bright red, mild, thick-fleshed and prolific.

Golden Dawn.—Resembles Bullnose, except in color, which is a beautiful yellow. Sweet and productive.

Golden Upright.—

Fruit large, golden yellow, smooth, thick-fleshed, mild and always upright. Plants and foliage of remarkable thrift.

Golden Queen.—Resembles Ruby King, except in color which is a fine yellow.

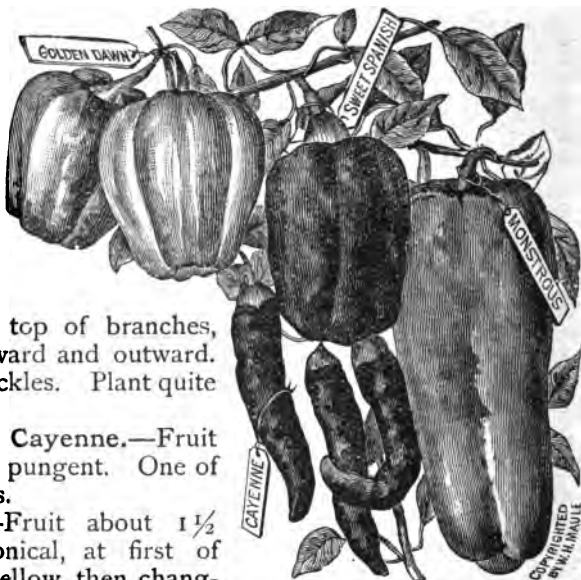
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Procopp's Giant.—Largest of all, being two or three times as long as widest diameter; pointed. Will need a few years more of careful selection for seed to make it more uniform and smooth, when it may become one of the grandest sorts in existence.

Red Cluster.—A small plant, perfectly covered with coral-red, small, thin peppers, all growing in bunches on the top of branches, and pointing upward and outward. Useful for hot pickles. Plant quite ornamental.

Long Red Cayenne.—Fruit small, long, very pungent. One of the old standards.

Celestial.—Fruit about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, conical, at first of beautiful waxy yellow, then changing to purplish scarlet. Plant a free grower and thrifty bearer, and at any stage of development, after fruit has begun to set, a most attractive thing, worthy to be cultivated as a pot plant in greenhouse or conservatory.



PENNYROYAL.

Mentha Pulegium. German, *Krausemünze*; French, *Menthe Pouliot*.—Perennial of the mint family, easily propagated by division of the creeping root-stock, often found growing wild in moist, clayey soils. Leaves have an agreeable odor, and are used for seasoning and for medical purposes.

PEPPERMINT.

Mentha Piperita. German, *Pfeffermünze*; French, *Menthe poirrée*.—Grows wild along the margins of swamps and streams, and other wet places. In a few localities it is largely cultivated and utilized in the manufacture of peppermint oil and essence. Propagated by division of root-stock or stem, and is easily grown. Plant pieces of root in rows 2 feet by 1, and give it a fair chance to grow, when it will soon take care of itself even on upland.

POTATOES (WHITE.)

Solanum Tuberosum. German, *Kartoffel*; French, *Pomme-de-terre*; Spanish, *Batatas*.—The invention of potato planters and diggers, and the adoption of simplified culture generally, with consequent greatly increased production and greatly diminished average prices, have rendered potato growing for fall and winter market on a small scale much less profitable than it was a few years ago, and are more and more taking the business out of the hands of the small grower, and concentrating it in the hands of a few who plant large areas. The extensive grower has immense advantages in the opportunities afforded him to make use of all the modern improved implements; and the small-scale operator can hope to stand up against this ruinous machine competition only by adopting a highly intensive system of cultivation. It is an unfortunate development, but seems to be the natural outgrowth of all our present industrial conditions, and in entire conformity with those in other branches of business. Potatoes may yet be grown on a similar plan as wheat growing is now carried on at the west by the Dalrymples; but while the yields on the large-scale plan may be a little above 100, and certainly less than 150 bushels per acre, the small grower, by careful selection of soil, varieties, manures, etc., should aim to bring his crop up to double the yields named, which together with the far smaller cost of getting the crop to market, must more than offset all large-scale advantages.

The production of late potatoes for market is a farm (not a garden) operation, but the cultivation of early varieties often fits nicely into market-garden rotation, and, of course, belongs to the family garden also.

SOIL AND MANURE.—Under proper treatment, the crop can be grown on soil of almost any composition, provided it has a good natural or artificial drainage. Sandy loam, however, is always considered best—best for the yield and best for quality of tuber. All soils for potatoes, however, should be generously provided with humus (decayed vegetable matter), the more the better; hence a young clover sod is always given the preference.

Where the humus supply in the soil is scant, nothing better in the way of manure could be applied than thoroughly-rotted compost. Raw stable manure is to be avoided unless it can be applied a year in advance, or on a preceding crop. As a general thing, it is much safer to depend on soil in good fertility rather than on manure applications; but on soils containing a sufficiency of vegetable matter I would use a good high-grade complete fertilizer, such as now made by most large fertilizer concerns especially for potatoes and other vegetables (a "special potato

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manure ") in preference to even the best of stable manure. It is pure nonsense and poor economy, however, to waste large quantities of such fertilizer on utterly run-down land, in the expectation of growing very large crops right away. I have often found out that this will not work. Accumulated fertility in the soil appears to be indispensable for a full measure of success. At the same time, it will be proper to state that these high-grade fertilizers, applied at the rate of from 800 to 1600 lbs. per acre, have sometimes given me an increase in the yield sufficient to pay two or three times the cost of manure, besides leaving the ground in better condition than before.

ROTATION.—To diminish the danger of attacks by potato beetles, flea beetles, and other insect foes, as well as by the diseases peculiar to the crop, its frequent change to a location as far as possible remote from any place where potatoes had been grown the year before, is to be heartily recommended as a safe and most practical means. This may not usually prevent the attacks entirely; but it will tend to render them far less serious and intense. Although perhaps not generally recognized, it is nevertheless a fact that few potato crops are now grown the foliage of which escapes considerable injury by beetles, blights, and poisonous applications, resulting in great reduction of the yield. Strictest adherence to the "wide rotation" principle, therefore, is a practice dictated by ordinary prudence.

AVERAGE YIELDS.—The average yield of the crop in the various states is ridiculously low. Some of the reasons for this fact have already been alluded to. Another is the yet common practice of planting in check rows, which, besides, are often needlessly wide apart. A change to drill planting, with not more than 3 feet space between the rows, and 12 to 18 inches between the seed pieces, frequently doubles the yield.

The size of seed pieces also has its decided influence upon the yield. Large seed pieces under average circumstances give the largest crops. Most growers use pieces too small for their own good. Let us make an examination of the potato fields a few weeks after planting time, in spring, and we see the great majority of the plantings come up slowly and weakly, with a single stalk growing from each hill, and many gaps in the rows. We may be sure the yield will be accordingly. Larger pieces, even whole tubers, have always given me the heaviest yields, and this to such an extent, that this extremely heavy seeding (sometimes over 30 bushels per acre) has turned out to be very profitable on good soil, and under average fair conditions.

The condition of seed is another factor in determining the yield. A full crop can only be grown from fresh, plump, seed-tubers that have not been weakened by the emission of spindling

sprouts before planting. Here we probably have the secret why "northern-grown" seed gives so much better satisfaction to southern planters than seed from their own localities.

EARLY CROPS.—The same methods suited for the production of early potatoes in the market garden may also be adopted for the family garden, and for small-scale operations generally.

The southern states supply the chief markets of the north with young potatoes long before the northern near-by grower can get his crop ready. It may be true that the southern potato grower takes the cream; but the milk that is left is yet very acceptable to the northern grower, who manages now to get his crop into market a little in advance of the rush, thus securing quite remunerative prices in spite of all southern competition. Earliness must be the foremost aim.

As means to this end we have (first), a judicious selection of soil, which should be well-drained, warm, somewhat sandy, and full of vegetable matter; (second), the selection of earliest good varieties, such, for instance, as Early Ohio and Early Sunrise; (third), the use of well-preserved seed tubers; (fourth), reasonably heavy seeding; (fifth), early planting, in a sheltered situation if possible; (sixth), stimulation of the plants by high feeding and high cultivation to induce rapid development; (seventh), digging and marketing just as soon as the tubers are in merchantable condition.

GARDEN CULTURE.—Early in spring the ground is thoroughly plowed and harrowed, and the furrows marked out with a one-horse plow, $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet apart. Market gardeners, following their natural instincts and habits of close planting, usually have the rows $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart. I find it more convenient for cultivation to make them for early sorts at same distance as for the late ones, 3 feet apart. If any fertilizer is applied in the bottom of the furrows—say a dressing of fine compost, wood ashes, hen manure, or "special potato manure," it is well mixed with the soil, and the latter at the same time nicely pulverized, by running a shovel-plow once or twice along in each furrow. On a small scale this may be accomplished by plying the hand hoe.

The seed pieces are then dropped 10 or 12 inches apart in the furrows, and covered about two inches deep with the hoe. Some good special potato fertilizer may now be scattered along the rows above the covered seed pieces, say at the rate of from 400 to 800 lbs. per acre; and if the land is not rich in accumulated plant food, a small dressing of nitrate of soda, broadcast, will assist in bringing out an early and thrifty growth of foliage. The cultivator (Planet Jr., or a similar narrow-bladed wheel-hoe) should be used very freely; and as the plants grow, the furrows are filled up level with the surface. Hilling is neither required nor beneficial. The old style of ridging by means of a winged

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shovel-plow is out of date ; but the soil must be kept well stirred and mellow until the plants cover the ground. When the tops begin to die, or even sooner, the crop is ready for digging, and if the price is acceptable, should be marketed at once, since prices are usually declining very rapidly just at that time.

FIELD CULTURE.—The market gardener, on account of his larger yields and the better prices he receives, can well afford to take more pains with his crop ; and so can the home grower,



Early Sunrise.

who will hardly miss the few hours he spends on his patch plying the hoe. In growing potatoes for main (late) crop, however, with the prospect of continued low prices for an average crop before us, we are forced to adopt a more economical system, especially in the employment of labor. The work must be done almost exclusively with horse and machine, and without call-

ing on hand hoes and spading forks or potato hooks for assistance. Thus it is yet possible, even at the present low average prices, to make the crop one of the most profitable for the farm in favorable locations.

A young, rich clover field, as already stated, is undoubtedly a superior selection for a site. In regard to the application of manures, I confess we are as yet quite ignorant. A number of ways are open to us, namely : (1) to apply the compost or fertilizers broadcast and plow it in ; or, (2) to broadcast them after plowing and simply harrow them in ; or, (3) to put the fertilizing material into the bottom of the furrows under the seed ; or, (4) to scatter it over the lightly covered seed. Myself and other people have made various tests to find out which of these methods will give us the best results ; but the outcome thus far has been of a rather negative character, and I believe the conclusion is justified that the mode of application is of far less influence upon the yield than the quantity of fertilizer. The indications, also, are that fertilizer applied above the seed usually gives slightly better returns than when applied in the bottom of the



Chas. Downing.

furrow before planting. My own practice—satisfactory to myself—is to spread the compost, if any is applied, evenly over the field before plowing; but to apply only half of the fertilizer broadcast, either before or after plowing, and to scatter the other half over the rows above the covered seed pieces.

I believe in planting early, say one or two weeks before the customary time for planting field corn. But it can also be done later in the season, and even up to July, provided that good seed is on hand. To preserve seed tubers until that time in best condition, they may be spread thinly upon the floor in a well-lighted room, or kept in cold storage until wanted for planting.

Size of seed pieces and distance of placing them in the drills depend somewhat on local conditions. Some growers report good results from planting single-eye pieces rather close. I have never been able to raise a full crop from single eyes, or small seed pieces generally; and in order to insure a chance for a good crop, always find myself obliged to resort to pretty heavy seeding. When planting time approaches, plow the ground 8 or 10 inches deep, or at least to the whole depth of the surface soil, if this be less. Fall plowing is seldom of much benefit except on heavier soils; neither is double or cross-plowing. Mellow the ground thoroughly by means of one of our modern deep-cutting harrows (Cutaway, disk, etc.)



Clark's No. 1.

and drill in the seed by means of an Aspinwall, or other good potato planter, in rows 3 feet apart, and 12 to 18 inches apart in the rows. Of course, the potato planter is usually available only to large operators; and where the planting has to be done by hand, furrows must be laid out with a single-horse plow, 4 inches deep and 3 feet apart, and the seed, consisting of good-sized pieces, or whole small or medium-sized tubers, deposited at intervals of 12 to 18 inches in the bottom of the furrow.

In most cases, especially when the soil is not as mellow as it might be, the treatment of the furrows, which has recently become famous as the "Rural (New Yorker) trench system," will be found to give good results. It consists in mellowing up the soil in the bottom of these furrows very thoroughly, either by means of a common shovel-plow, going at least twice in each furrow, or by devices constructed for the purpose, such as I hope will be invented before long and put on sale in every

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hardware store. This is done in order to give to the roots of the vines, and to the tubers also, the best possible chance for development.

The seed is to be covered with about two inches of soil, and this should be firmed in same manner as other seed, best by setting the foot firmly and squarely upon each piece. The fertilizer is then scattered along in the half-filled trenches, and this finishes the planting.

Cultivation should be begun within a week. I have never found a method of cultivating the potato field during its earlier stages more effectual, cheaper and easier than by the early, thorough, and repeated use of a Thomas' smoothing harrow.

It gives us every advantage without a single drawback. The first harrowing, shortly after planting, had better be given in the direction of the rows; the next one four or five days after, across the rows; and one or two more, at intervals of four or five days



The Polaris.

each, in the same way. This treatment renders the surface smooth and even, mellows and pulverizes the soil thoroughly, and so utterly discourages the weeds, that they will not venture to show themselves for a long time. Now the young plants have probably grown several inches high; and the cultivator (Planet Jr., for instance) must take the place of the harrow. In the manipulation of the cultivator, we aim to crowd the row at

the right-hand pretty closely, and going twice between the same two rows, stir the entire surface of the soil without leaving anything for the hand hoe to do. Cultivation is kept up until the vines cover the ground.

DIGGING, HARVESTING AND STORING.—In clean, mellow soil our modern potato diggers do good service. Where none is available, a common one-horse plow (or a shovel-plow) often answers very well. Small patches may be dug with a potato hook, or a digging fork, or even a common hand hoe. If dug by machine or plow, the ground, after the crop is picked up, can be harrowed over with the smoothing harrow, thus bringing the few tubers, that had been covered up and hidden, into sight for gathering. The tubers may be left on the ground for a short time, and are then gathered in box-crates holding a bushel each, and thus drawn to market, cellar, root-house, or pit. The simplest, cheapest, and generally most satisfactory manner of storing for

wintering over, next to that in root cellar, is in pits, provided the potatoes are covered up when cool, and protected sufficiently to keep them from contact with frost.

VARIETIES.

The most sensible way of classifying our hundreds of potato varieties, it seems to me, would be by bringing them under the head of types or families—Early Rose type, Burbank type, Beauty of Hebron type, Peerless type, etc.—The following list includes the leading sorts:

Early Ohio.—Yet the earliest good sort with which I am acquainted. Needs high culture, and is emphatically a garden potato; especially valuable for the market garden. Cooks dry and mealy even before fully ripe. Quality best. Keeps well, much better than its parent, the Early Rose.

Early Sunrise.—Another seedling of Early Rose, much resembling it, but considerably earlier. Good for home and market garden.

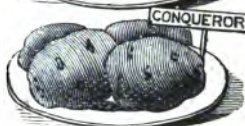
The People's.—A promising new seedling. In shape it is oblong to round; flesh, white; eyes, shallow; tubers remarkably large and handsome, of great uniformity. They cook dry and mealy. Mature about the same time as the Empire State.

White Prize.—A very smooth, handsome potato and a great yielder. Flesh, white; and always cooks dry and mealy.

The Potentate.—This fine new variety originated in Iowa. It is a fine keeper, and claimed to resist rot better than most other sorts

The Chas. Downing.—A very early and promising variety of recent introduction. An excellent table sort, as it equals the well-known Snowflake in quality.

The Polaris.—A new extra early of unusual promise. It is of oblong shape, white skin; eyes few and shallow, always cooks dry and mealy. **Matures a week ahead of either the Early Rose or Beauty of Hebron.**



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Badger State.—Originated by Mr. Huebner, of Wisconsin. It promises to make a place for itself at the top of the list. Of large size, oblong shape and firm skin. Proves to be an excellent shipper.

Early Rose.—The well-known early market variety. So many of its seedlings have been introduced in recent years, and are being marketed under the name of "Early Rose," that it may be difficult to procure the pure old variety under that name.

Prince Edward Island Rose is being sent out as the well-preserved old sort, and having retained all its original good qualities.

Beauty of Hebron.—Equals the Rose in popularity as an early market sort, and ripens at about the same season.

Clark's No. 1.—An early sort of the Rose type.

Early Mayflower,

Early Maine,

Morning Star,

Beauty of Beauties,

Conqueror.—All these are worthy of trial.

Peerless.—An old sort, much grown for market, especially in sandy soils; very productive, but usually quoted lower than other leading market sorts. Food for the south.

Mammoth Pearl,

Mammoth Prolific.—These are of the Peerless type, but preferable to the old Peerless.

White Elephant.—A large, late and immensely productive Beauty of Hebron; of fine quality, and well thought of in market.

Burbank.—The old standard market sort. Of Rose-shape, and pure white color; prolific; a good keeper; but of good quality only when grown on light soils.

White Star.—Might be called an Improved Burbank, as it resembles that sort in general appearance, but seems to be superior to it in almost every respect. Now, next to the Rose, the leading market sort.

Dakota Red.—A large prolific red sort, well thought of in most localities.

Empire State.—Very promising; superior in yield and quality.

POTATO (SWEET).

Convolvulus Batatas. German, *Batate*; French, *Patate Douce*; Spanish, *Batata*—In sweet potatoes we have a most important crop for the middle and southern states; but one which will hardly ever succeed in the short seasons north of New

York city, although by coddling a comparatively few plants, the tubers can be brought to some size. The crop, however, will not be a profitable one for market in such northern localities.

GROWING THE PLANTS.—To start the beds we need a good strong hot-bed, although not as early in the season as for egg-plants or even tomatoes. The manure is but lightly covered with soil or sand, and the tubers are spread out in single layer, the larger ones split in halves, cut-side down, as closely as possible without overcrowding. The layer is then covered with 3 or 4 inches of sand. Water and ventilation have to be given as for egg plants or peppers. In five or six weeks the first plants will be large enough to sever from the seed tubers, which is accomplished by simply pulling them up. New plants continue to start, and may be pulled, and planted out as they grow large enough.

GROWING THE CROP.—Warm, well-drained soil of medium fertility is best. Rich soil is apt to produce too rank a growth of vines, and make it almost impossible to prevent them from rooting all over the ground, and thus wasting their energies in the formation of large numbers of tubers too small for use, instead of concentrating them on the development of the tubers in the hill.

Mark out light furrows 4 feet apart, and fill them rounding full with good manure, or scatter a liberal quantity (say 800 pounds or more per acre) of good special potato fertilizer in them. Next with a one-horse plow throw a furrow to the manure from each side of the row, forming a pretty good ridge, which is to be smoothed nicely with the hoe, and thus got ready for setting the plants. The proper time for doing this is when the ground has become thoroughly warm, say from May 15th to June 15th. Set the plants firmly on top of the ridge, about 24 inches apart, leaving them in the centre of a slight depression. I need hardly repeat that the roots of the plants, just previous to setting out, ought to be dipped in water. A half-pint of water should also be poured into the depression around each plant. Afterwards keep well cultivated and free from weeds, and occasionally lift up the vines to detach them from the ground, where they have begun to strike root between the hills and rows.

HARVESTING.—After the first light frost, the vines are to be cut off close above the ground, and the roots carefully lifted out by means of a spading fork. Great care is necessary in order to avoid bruising the tubers. The latter may be left out on the ground for a few hours to dry, and should then be stored in a dry and warm loft. To keep well, they should not be exposed to much change of temperature, or a lower temperature than 50 or 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

VARIETIES.

Yellow Nansemond.—The leading market sort in the middle states. A red sort is now gaining in popularity.

PUMPKIN.

Cucurbita. German, *Kürbiss*; French, *Potiron*; Spanish, *Calabaza*.—The cultivation

of pumpkins is the same as described for squash, which see. Have the hills about 12 feet apart each way, with 2 or 3 good plants in a hill. Farmers generally plant pumpkin seeds in the hills with their corn, and often have a large crop, both for stock and for pies, in the corn-field.



VARIETIES.

The following are excellent for pies:

Japanese Pie.—This new pumpkin originated in Japan, and is said to surpass every other variety in flavor. Flesh is unusually fine grained, and when cooked is almost as dry and mealy as a sweet potato. They grow to a medium size; are very productive, and excellent keepers.

Large Cheese,
Mammoth Etampes,
Potiron,

Yellow Sweet Potato, etc.—All these are popular sorts.

RADISH.

Raphanus Sativus. German, *Radies (Rettig)*; French, *Radis*; Spanish, *Rabanito*.—Radishes are one of the chief market garden crops for forcing under glass, and for early outdoor culture, and so easily grown that there is no need of giving lengthy directions. The whole crop can often be produced and disposed of within thirty-five or forty days from sowing seed, and, for this reason, it is often sown between the rows of other vegetables that occupy the ground

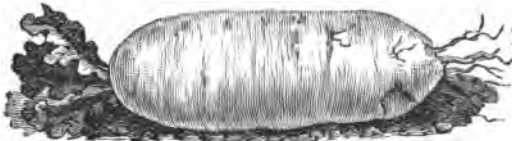
for a longer period, but, starting slowly, give the radishes all the opportunity needed to come to full size. In outdoor culture broadcast sowing is not unfrequently practiced; but it is a method hardly worthy of consideration by good gardeners, and I neither practice nor recommend it. For culture under glass see the hints given in the chapters on cold-frames and forcing-houses. In open air culture, avoid new manure and old ground, *i. e.*, ground on



Early Deep Scarlet Olive.



Earliest Deep Scarlet Turnip.



Mammoth Chinese.

which radishes, turnips, cabbages, and other plants of the same family have been grown the year before. Stimulate growth by light applications of nitrate of soda. In the market garden, to save space, the rows can be crowded very closely together, 6 inches between them being ample; in the home garden we usually plant twice that distance, or more, for convenience in cultivation. In either case, however, it is a good practice to utilize the space between widely planted crops—cabbages, beans, etc.—when first set out or sown, by growing a row or two of radishes between each two rows of the others. The great enemy of this crop is the maggot, which often entirely ruins whole patches. Rotation and avoidance of rank manure are our best weapons. Don't neglect early thinning to make the crop uniform.

VARIETIES.

These are divided in three classes, (1) early or forcing radishes, (2) summer and autumn radishes, (3) winter radishes.

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EARLY OR FORCING SORTS.

Earliest Deep Scarlet Turnip.—One of the very earliest. I have had it fit for the table in less than twenty days after sowing. Round, handsome, of bright color, and fine quality.

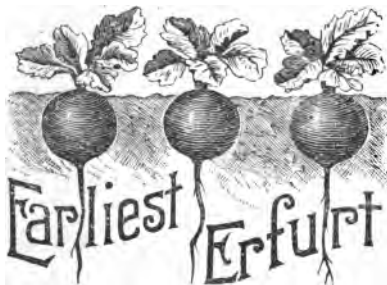
Early Erfurt.—Another extra early sort, and one of the very best. Somewhat similar in general characteristics to the preceding.

Early White-Tipped Scarlet Turnip.—A handsome, early, round sort, bright carmine in color with white at tip end.

Early White Turnip.—Roundish or flattened, white, pungent.

White Box is sent out as an improved White Turnip.

Early Deep Scarlet Olive.—Considered one of the best and handsomest of the small or forcing varieties. Flesh tender and of mild flavor. Very early.



White Turnip.

French Breakfast.—Handsome and early, and quite popular as an early market sort. Remains in condition fit for table use but a few days after the bulbs or roots are fully formed, hence it cannot be recommended for the home garden.

All these early varieties are suitable to be planted for succession all through the season.

SUMMER AND AUTUMN VARIETIES.

Long Scarlet Short-Top.—A handsome second early, long-rooted variety, suitable both for forcing and out-door culture.

Long Vienna,

White Ladyfinger.—Two fine, long, white sorts, of tender flesh and superior flavor.

Large White Summer Turnip.—Grows to a large size, and remains in condition fit for the table longer than most other summer varieties.

Stuttgart Giant White Turnip.—Grows still larger than the preceding, and in flavor and otherwise has many of the characteristics of the winter varieties, and may be served in the same manner.

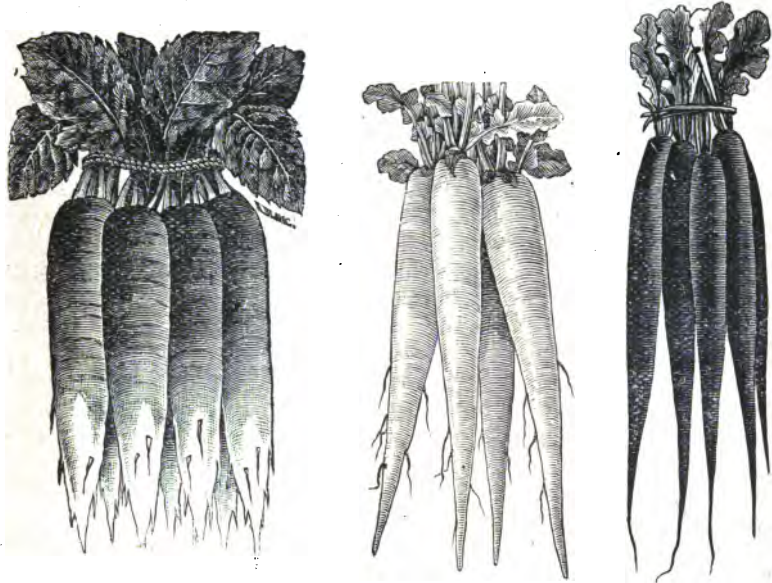
Yellow Summer.—A good, strong, long-standing summer variety with dark russet-yellow skin. Its flavor reminds of that of winter radishes.

Golden Summer is introduced as an improved Yellow Summer.

White Strassburg Summer.—One of the finest half-long varieties, very productive, growing to large size; skin and flesh pure white; of superior tenderness and quality.

1834.—Similar to the above, but of American origin.

Chartier.—One of the largest of this class, smooth, handsome, long roots; somewhat late, and of considerable pungency but crisp and tender when well-grown.



Chartier.

White Lady Finger.

Long Scarlet.

WINTER VARIETIES.

China Rose Winter.—Early, handsome, tender, of somewhat sweetish flavor. Quite popular.

Black Spanish Winter Long.—Very black, flesh white, firm, tender, pungent.

Large White Spanish Winter.—A quick grower, skin and flesh white. Firm and pungent. A good keeper.

Large White Russian.—A mammoth in size, but lacking in tenderness and crispness.

California Mammoth White Winter, Mammoth Chinese.—Of very rapid growth, large, tender, and of mild flavor. I prefer it to all other winter varieties.

RHUBARB.

Rheum Hybridum (Rhaponticum). German, *Rhabarber*; French, *Rhubarbe*; Spanish, *Ruibarbo*.—Rhubarb, or pie-plant, is largely grown for market near all larger cities, and found in almost every American home garden. It is usually propagated by division of the roots, each eye or bud with a piece of the fleshy root attached being capable of producing a large plant within a year's time. It also grows readily from the seed, at a year's delay in producing the crop. Plants grown from seed also vary very largely in habit of growth. Seed is sown in drills, 12 or 15 inches apart, and the plants thinned to a few inches in the drills. In fall or spring following they are to be set out in same way as pieces of roots from older plants.

Select warm, well-drained soil, plow deeply, if possible following with a subsoil plow, and mark out furrows four feet apart each way. A few shovelfuls of rich compost should be mixed with the soil at each intersection. Then set the plants carefully and firmly, and from this time on keep the ground cultivated and free from weeds. In spring following, the stalks may be pulled freely. A plantation will last many years, but the plants should be given a good dressing of rich compost every year or two. Home gardeners sometimes place boxes, or kegs with heads removed, over the hills in early spring, and by this means produce extra long and tender growth of stalk.

For winter and early spring use, Rhubarb is often forced in greenhouses and cold-frames, and usually with very fair profit. The roots are taken up in the autumn, crowded together in boxes or barrels with a little soil between them, and placed in any convenient place in the greenhouse (under the benches, for instance), where they soon start into growth. For cold-frame culture the roots are planted closely together in a deep frame in the autumn, and covered with a heavy layer of dry forest leaves. In February or March the leaves are removed, and the sashes put on. Forced Rhubarb is usually more tender and succulent than that from open ground.

VARIETIES.

Victoria, Wyatt's Victoria.—Stalks red, and very thick. Leaves broad. Productive. Late.

Linnæus, Wyatt's Linnæus.—Stalks deep green, early.

ROSEMARY.

Rosmarinus Officinalis. German, *Rosmarin*; French, *Romarin*; Spanish, *Romero*.—A shrub-like perennial, the leaves of which are used for seasoning. Propagated from seed, or

more generally from division of the root-stock. A tuft or two of it planted in any convenient, well-drained spot, will furnish all a family may possibly want, without requiring further attention.

RUE.

Ruta Graveolens. German, *Raute*; French, *Rue*.—The leaves of this little perennial shrub, although bitter and very pungent, are nevertheless sometimes used for seasoning. Plants are easily grown from seed, or from division of the tufts. Set the plants 20 or 24 inches apart each way in well-drained but rather moist soil. Little or no further attention is required.

SAGE.

Salvia Officinalis. German, *Salbei*; French, *Sauge*; Spanish, *Salvia*.—A perennial shrub of easiest culture, the leaves of which are largely used for seasoning sausages, meat, etc. Readily propagated from seed as well as by layering. Sow seed in early spring in drills, in well-drained soil. The plants will last for many years without requiring much attention. It is largely grown for market as a second crop. The Broad Leaved is an improved variety.

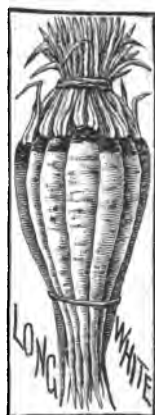


Sage.

SALSIFY, OR OYSTER PLANT.

Tragopogon Porrifolium. German, *Haferwurz*; French, *Salsifis*; Spanish, *Salsifi*.—It is only recently that people have begun to like salsify, and to cultivate it more generally. It is becoming so important as a market crop that some market gardeners near the large cities of the east now grow acres of it.

CULTURE.—Seed is sown in spring in drills 12 inches apart, and the plants thinned to 3 or 4 inches apart in the rows. The soil should be rich and well prepared, and kept well cultivated and hoed during the growing season. The crop may be dug late in the fall, and stored away like other root crops for use during the winter. Frost improves its flavor. That part of the crop which is intended for spring use, may safely be left in the ground over winter, and only at the extreme north it may be necessary to draw a little soil over the rows for winter protection.



VARIETIES.

Until recently only one variety was catalogued, sometimes under the name of **White French**. Three years ago a much larger sort was introduced as **Mammoth Sandwich Island**. This is so much more productive, and generally so superior to the old sort, that we have no further use for the latter.

SAVORY (SUMMER).

Satureia Hortensis. German, *Bohnenkraut*; French, *Sarriette* (*annuelle*); Spanish, *Ajedrea*.—The leaves of this bushy annual are frequently used for seasoning. Sow seed in spring in good, warm soil, and keep free from weeds. Sometimes grown for market as a second crop.



SAVORY (WINTER).

Satureia Montana. German, *Winter Bohnenkraut*; French, *Sarriette* (*vivace*); Spanish, *Hisopillo*.—A small perennial shrub, the leaves of which are used in same manner as those of the summer savory. Seed may be sown in spring in any convenient, well-drained spot where the plants are to remain. They need very little attention.

Savory.

SCORZONERA.

Scorzonera Hispanica. German, *Schwarzwurzel*; French, *Scorsonere*; Spanish, *Escorzonera*.—A perennial, cultivated either as annual or biennial, exactly like Salsify, with this difference that the roots, if left in the ground, will continue to grow in size and to remain fit for use. Used like salsify, but grown in America only to a very limited extent.

SEA-KALE.

Crambe Maritima. German, *Meerkohl*; French, *Crambe*; Spanish, *Soldanella*; *Maritima*.—Sea-Kale is found in very few American gardens. When well-grown, it makes such an excellent dish that it is well worth the trouble required to raise it. Propagated both from seed and root cuttings. Make the soil very rich and mellow. Then plant a few seeds, or a four-inch piece of root, in hills, three feet apart each way, and keep well cultivated and free from weeds. If more than one plant grows from the seed, all but the strongest are pulled up as



Sea-Kale.

soon as the one remaining has attained sufficient size. At the extreme north the crowns must be protected during winter by a covering of leaves or litter. The second season from root cuttings, or the third season from seed, the plants are strong enough to yield a supply. To make sea-kale fit for use, it has to be blanched. For this purpose the crowns must be covered in early spring with sand or muck, to the depth of at least twelve inches; or an inverted flower pot, with hole in bottom entirely stopped up, be placed over each crown, and further covered with leaves or dry soil. The bed will last quite a number of years, but should be manured with good compost every fall or spring.

SHALLOT.

Allium Ascalonicum. German, *Schalotte*; French, *Echalote*; Spanish, *Chalote*.—Used to some extent as a substitute for green onions in early spring. The bulbs are usually divided and planted in early autumn, in rows one foot apart, and five or six inches apart in the row. Perfectly hardy, and coming earlier than onions, they are often quite a profitable crop for market.



Shallot.

SORREL (BROAD-LEAVED).



Sorrel.

Rumex Acetosa. German, *Sauerampfer*; French, *Oseille*.—Used to a limited extent for soups and salads. Usually grown from seed, which is sown in early spring in good soil, having rows one foot apart. Thin the plants to stand five or six inches apart in the rows. The leaves are the part used. Cut out the seed-stalk, as soon as it appears.

SPINACH.

Spinacea Oleracea. German, *Spinat*; French, *Epinard*; Spanish, *Espinaca*.—In spinach we have a most important market garden crop, valuable alike for open air culture and for forcing under glass. There is hardly a time during the entire year that spinach could not be produced, or find ready sale in the city markets. Southern truck farmers grow it quite extensively as

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an early spring crop for shipping to the north. Within reasonable distance from New York city and Philadelphia spinach is largely grown in cold-frames and forcing houses, and usually affords the grower very fair returns. For fuller information on this point see the respective chapters.

As early in spring as we can get the ground in working order, we begin outdoor culture by sowing seed in drills in the usual way, and in very rich and well-prepared soil. Nitrate of soda, applied in small and repeated doses, tends to produce large foliage. Use the hand wheel-hoe freely, and keep the ground free from weeds. When ready for gathering, run a sharp scuffle or push hoe along the rows under the plants, thus cutting them off close to the ground. They are then picked up, freed from dead and decaying leaves, and washed clean, when they are ready for use or market. For longer distances, spinach is usually packed in barrels, having openings in bottom and sides. In many market



Spinach.

gardens spinach is sown as a secondary or auxiliary crop between rows of early cabbages, etc. It comes off in time to give the cabbages the needed space. For fall market, seed is sown in August, for winter and earliest spring crops, in September and early October. Make the land very rich, using the

best of compost freely. Top dressings of poultry manure and nitrate of soda seldom fail to increase the yield largely, and sometimes immensely.

Plant in drills one foot apart, using seed very freely (twelve or fifteen pounds to the acre), and firming it very thoroughly. At this time of the year it is often so hot and dry, that seeds refuse to germinate, unless extra precaution is taken in sowing. Keep the ground well cultivated and free from weeds. Should the plants come very thick, they may be thinned late in October or in November, and the thinnings used or sold. The main crop usually winters over without loss, but in exposed situations should be lightly covered with coarse litter or leaves. The crop is cut and marketed in early spring.

VARIETIES.

We have now quite a number of varieties, varying slightly in habit of growth, and formation of leaf.

Round-Leaf.—Very popular with market gardeners on account of its great hardiness.

Long-Standing Summer.—Closely resembles the Round-Leaf, but runs to seed a week or more later. For this reason it is decidedly preferable, especially also for the home garden.

Thick-Leaved.—An old market sort, both for spring and fall sowing.

Viroflay is said to be a more productive strain of this.

Savoy-Leaved.—Leaf somewhat curly, reminding of the Savoy Cabbages. I do not see in it any merits above those of other sorts.

Prickly.—So named from the prickly character of its seeds.

SUBSTITUTES.—Various plants are now used as substitutes for spinach, among them the following:

New Zealand Spinach, *Tetragonia expansa*.—An annual with spreading stem, and thick, heavy leaves. Seeds large and prickly. Stands the summer heat remarkably well, and is therefore frequently used in place of spinach during June, July and August, or in very hot and dry locations.

Orache, *Atriplex Hortensis*.—Annual with broad, arrow-shaped leaves; stands the heat remarkably well, but succeeds best in rich, moist soil. Otherwise treated like spinach.

Sprouts.—Much grown at the south for home and northern markets. See Kale.

Strawberry Blite, *Blitum Capitatum*.—An annual weed, extremely hardy, and sometimes recommended as a substitute for winter spinach at the extreme north. When loaded with its bright-red, berry-like fruit in spring, it is quite ornamental.

SQUASH.

Cucurbita. German, *Speise Kürbiss*; French, *Courge*, *Potiron*; Spanish, *Calabaza*.—Their rank growth and demands for space exclude squashes from the market garden, but they can usually be made a profitable crop for the truck farm. All squashes thrive best in a warm, highly-enriched soil and in a warm location. An old pasture or clover field is one of the best selections. Apply good compost liberally, plow and harrow well, and plant after the weather has become thoroughly settled and the ground warm.



Summer Crookneck.

Striped bugs are usually so destructive to the young plants, that it is frequently considered the only safe way to start plants on inverted sods under glass in April or May, in same manner as described for Lima beans, and afterwards plant out in the open field. Mark out rows four feet apart each way for the bush or

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summer sorts, and eight to twelve feet each way for the running or winter varieties, and mix three or four shovelfuls of rich compost with the soil at each intersection; then plant a dozen



Hubbard.

seeds, or set a sod with plants in slightly raised hills. Afterwards cultivate and hoe frequently, always drawing some fresh soil up to the plants. Pull up all but two or three of the most vigorous plants, and continue fighting the cucumber beetle and squash bug. Also guard against the attacks of the squash borer. Covering the first one or two joints, after the vines have begun to run, should never be neglected. The summer varieties are gathered and marketed while young and yet tender. The winter sorts must be harvested before frost, and marketed in bulk or in barrels. If carefully handled and stored in a dry room, like sweet potatoes, they may be kept until spring.

Winter squashes thus kept can generally be marketed during winter or spring at prices that make the crop a very profitable one.

SUMMER VARIETIES (*C. Pepo*).

White Scallop, White Bush,

Yellow Scallop, Yellow Bush.—These are leading sorts for market, differing only in color of the skin.

Summer Crookneck.—Quite popular, especially for the home garden.

Brazilian Sugar.—A running variety, fine for late summer and fall. Prolific and of superior quality.

WINTER VARIETIES (*C. Maxima*).

Hubbard.—The leading market variety. Fruit dark green, sometimes marked with red. Unexcelled for quality, and as a keeper.

Marblehead.—Similar to Hubbard, except in color, which is ashy-gray.

Boston Marrow.—Much grown for market, and highly prized for quality.

Prolific Marrow has been introduced as an improvement on Boston Marrow. Both are fine autumn sorts.

Sibley, Pike's Peak.—A new introduction, highly recommended.

Bay State.—Another new sort of great promise.

Olive.—Fruit, of medium size, elongated. Vine remarkably vigorous.

Essex Hybrid.—Fruit thick, almost cylindrical; of salmon pink color.

Red China.—A beautiful fruit of recent introduction. Its bright color makes it especially attractive, and desirable for the home garden.

Chestnut,

Perfect Gem,

Cocoanut.—Three vigorous growing varieties with small but numerous fruits. Quality good. Vines seem to be as hardy as those of the bush sorts. Worthy a place in the home garden.



No. 1, White Bush.

No. 2, Boston Marrow.

No. 3, Marblehead.

No. 4, Cocoanut.

Yokohama.—A variety of *Cucurbita moschata*, from Japan, of most rampant growth, and fully as hardy as the summer sorts; also apparently less subject to injury from bug attacks. Fruit flattened, of very dark green color, deeply lobed or ribbed. Quality good.

THYME.

Thymus Vulgaris. German, *Thymian*; French, *Thym*; Spanish, *Tomillo*.—A small perennial shrub, the leaves and young shoots of which are often used for seasoning. Generally raised from seed sown in April in permanent bed and border, or to be transplanted to the permanent patch. For market, near large cities, it is grown as a second crop, planted out in June or July, in rows one foot apart.

Broad-leaved is the only variety in profitable cultivation.



Thyme.

TOMATO.

Solanum Lycopersicum. German, *Liebesapfel*; French and Spanish, *Tomate*.—In many sections of this country, tomatoes are a leading farm crop, and grown almost more extensively than potatoes. The market garden has little use for them, except as an early or a forcing crop; for this vegetable, to do its best, requires more space than high feeding and high cultivation. With good plants to start with, tomatoes are one of the easiest crops to grow where the climate is warm enough to bring the fruit to maturity.

GROWING THE PLANTS.—It is of especial importance to start the plants early (not later than in March) in hot-bed or greenhouse, in order to get an early crop. Give the plants all the space they need for full development, during every stage of growth, in order to make them stocky; then harden them off thoroughly before their transfer to the open ground.

CULTURE.—To give the best results, tomatoes require the soil in a fair state of fertility; but the richer it is, the wider should the plants be set, 4 feet square usually being the very



Dwarf Champion.

Turner Hybrid.

Trophy.

least distance, except perhaps for some of the very dwarf sorts. Keep the crop cultivated and hoed, same as a good farmer would his corn.

WINTER FORCING.—For forcing the crop in greenhouse, plants may be obtained by rooting cuttings of old plants in the fall, then planting out in beds in greenhouse, or in large pots or boxes, giving each plant a space of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet each way. All laterals are removed and the main stalks tied to stakes, or wires, or strings. During the time of fruit-setting the atmosphere inside of the building has to be kept dry. This is sometimes accomplished by cementing the bottom, and placing kegs or boxes with pulverized dry charcoal or freshly-burned lime about the house. Attention must also be paid to secure proper fertilization (fecundation) by striking lightly against the wires, stakes or strings, from time to time, in order to scatter the pollen-dust.

ENEMIES, MARKETING, ETC.—The potato stalk-borer sometimes attacks the tomato vines, and the green tomato-worm the foliage. Both enemies, when appearing, should be hunted up and destroyed. Tomato rot and blight appears very destructive in some localities, and the proper precautions, of which "wide" rotation is safest, must be taken. The farmer and market gardener can hardly afford to stake or train his thousands of plants; neither is this of any special benefit. It is different in the home garden, where a few plants, nicely trained, can easily be made an interesting and attractive feature of the vegetable patch. A simple way of training the plants is by single stake. Set the stake at time of setting the plant, and keep the latter tied up from the very beginning. In packing for distant market, be sure to send only nice, smooth specimens, and sort out all the rough and otherwise faulty ones.



Strawberry Tomato.

VARIETIES.

Our list now includes a large amount of most excellent sorts, and if I were restricted to a single one, I would hardly know which to choose. Leaving a few early dwarfish sorts out of consideration, there is but little difference between all our really good varieties so far as earliness and productiveness are concerned. They vary greatly in color, size, shape, solidity, as well as habit of growth, and character of foliage.

Dwarf Champion.—One of the best for the home garden and for early market. Fruit of purplish color, fair size, solid, smooth and uniform. Vine of remarkably stiff and compact growth; foliage heavy, of dark bluish-green. Earlier than other standard sorts, but fruit holds out well to the end of the season, and specimens seem to grow larger as the season advances. Can be planted as close as 3 feet each way, and if staked when first set out, will be apt to remain in an upright position right through.

Earliest Advance,

Early King,

Atlantic Prize.—These three sorts somewhat resemble each other, in so far as they are of dwarfish but spreading growth, lacking in vigor and productiveness, but will bring the bulk of fruit to maturity much earlier than the other varieties that have value for market. Fruit only of medium size and not excessively solid. Should be given high culture.

Matchless.—This new tomato is certainly matchless in form, regularity of growth, and desirable shipping qualities.

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Fruit very free from core; in color, a rich cardinal red, and less liable to crack in wet weather than any other large tomato. It is good every way.

Trophy.—An old favorite on account of superior solidity and quality of fruit, which, however, is not always smooth.

Acme.—A popular sort for early market. Of purplish color; round, smooth, solid and productive.

Beauty seems to be an improvement on it.

Paragon,
Perfection,
Favorite,
Mayflower,

Cardinal.—All these are excellent for market and canning factory use, varying but slightly in their leading characteristics. Fruit large-sized, red, smooth, solid.

Turner Hybrid, Mikado.—Mammoth in plant, foliage, fruit, and productiveness, but fruit not always smooth.



Potato Leaf Tomato.

Potato-Leaf.—Similar in habit of growth and foliage to the preceding; fruit of good size, purple color, and uniformly smooth. One of the best for home use or early market.

Essex Hybrid,
Volunteer,

Optimus, and many others might be named that prove to be good and reliable sorts for all purposes.

Golden Queen.—One of the best of the yellow sorts.

Peach.—Quite distinct. Foliage much serrated and delicate. Fruit small, fine color and shape, growing in clusters. More interesting than practically useful, however.

Lorillard.—Superior for forcing, but also does well in open air. Fruit early, large, smooth and solid.

Strawberry Tomato (Alkekengi), Physalis.—Fruits yellow, of size of cherry, growing enclosed in a husk; of sweetish, fruity flavor. Sometimes grown for preserves. The plant, when once grown, is apt to reproduce itself year after year from self-sown seed.

TURNIPS.

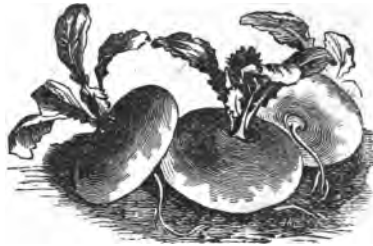
Brassica napa (campestris). German, *Steckrübe, Kohlrübe*; French, *Navet*; Spanish, *Nabo*.—The market gardener has but little use and room for turnips, except to a limited extent for the early flat varieties, which are grown and marketed in the same manner as early beets. The ground is made very rich by applications of thoroughly-rotted compost, supplemented, if convenient, with some good, plain superphosphate strewn in the drills, and seed sown as early in spring as the soil can be got in readiness, in drills 15 inches apart, using seed at the rate of two pounds per acre, and firming the soil in the often recommended manner.

CULTIVATION, ETC.—Use the wheel-hoe as needed, and thin the plants, when danger from flea beetle injury is past, to 2 or 3 inches. When the roots are about 2 inches in diameter, pull, trim, wash and bunch for market.

TURNIPS AS FARM CROP.—These turnips are of still greater importance as a fall crop for the farm. Sometimes they find ready sale at very acceptable prices for table use, during late autumn and winter, but usually the swedes or rutabagas,



Improved Purple Top Swede.



Extra Early Milan.

with their richer flavor, are grown for this purpose in preference to the quicker-growing flat turnips.

As a crop for stock feeding this vegetable is not yet appreciated to its full value by the average farmer. I have not yet seen the farm where suitable pieces of land are not annually available for turnip growing in the latter part of the season, and after the main crop is removed. An early potato field, an old strawberry patch, a pasture lot, etc., after the crop is harvested in July or August, may yet produce many hundreds of bushels of flat turnips (or of rutabagas either, if early enough) per acre the same season, with very little labor and trouble. Being easily wintered, they will materially aid in carrying stock through the winter in good condition, and with a saving of grain.

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But even if such land should not be available, the farmer can at least provide for a superior lot of fall feed, just when pastures are short, by scattering the seed of the flat turnips all

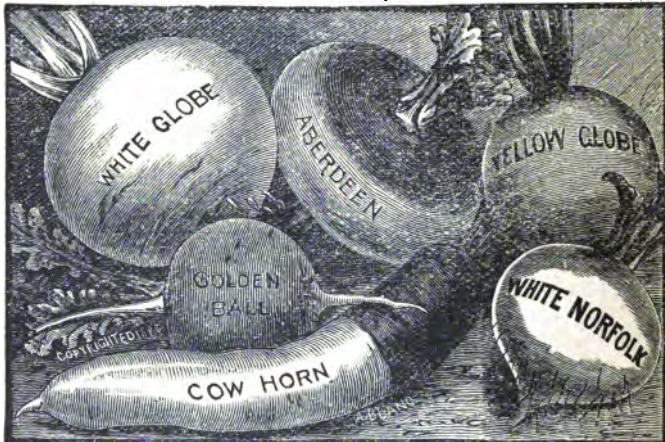


Extra Early Munich.



over his corn fields immediately after the last working. The turnip crop will make its best growth after the corn is cut, and entirely cover the ground with foliage and crisp roots—alike acceptable to cattle, sheep, and hogs. Here the simple expense for a few pounds of seed, without any other trouble besides the little effort it takes to scatter it, will greatly add to the aggregate income of the farm.

RUTABAGAS.—The rutabagas or Swede turnips are quite an important crop for the farm garden ; but while the flat varieties



in the latitude of Philadelphia will give a crop even if sown as late as the middle or end of August, the rutabagas must go into the ground 4 or 6 weeks earlier. The drills should not be less

than 18 inches apart, and the plants be thinned to 6 or 8 inches. The same cultivation and attention to weeds is required as for other crops of similar character. Gather before settled cold weather; trim off the tops, and ship in barrels, or store as directed for other root crops.

VARIETIES—FLAT EARLY SORTS.

Extra Early Milan.—Earliest of all, and just the variety for early bunching. In general appearance like Red-Top Strap-Leaf, only smaller and earlier.

Extra Early Munich resembles this very closely, perhaps a few days later and less reliable than the Extra Early Milan.

Red-Top Strap-Leaf.—The old reliable fall turnip, flat, white with red or purplish top. **Red-Top White Globe** is introduced as a round, consequently more productive sort of this type.

Early Flat Dutch.—A fine white garden turnip, resembling Red-Top in shape.

White Egg.—Of egg shape and quite handsome and productive.

Large White Norfolk.—Valuable for stock.

Among other sorts worthy of planting, we have

Cow Horn,
Large Yellow Globe,
Yellow Aberdeen,
Jersey Lily, etc.



White Rock.

VARIETIES OF RUTABAGAS OR SWEDES.

Improved Purple Top Swede—Of fine quality, prolific, reliable.

Maule's Heavy Cropping.—An extra good sort.

Sutton's Champion.—Very productive.

White Rock.

Hardy Imperial.

Large White French, and others.

CHAPTER XXIX.

STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

IN THE HOME AND MARKET GARDEN.

"And it was called the Queen of Fruits."



NO work on vegetable and market gardening could justly be called complete if it had refused to take notice of the strawberry and its culture, not only because this is the most luscious, the most desired and desirable, indeed the queen, of all fruits, and indispensable in any well-regulated home garden—coveted alike by young and old, a most enjoyable luxury, and a most potent medicine at the same time—but also because it often fits so admirably in the crop rotation of the market garden. The skilled market gardener, who retails his own garden stuff to local or near-by customers, always finds it a most useful crop, which adds many dollars to the cash receipts during a period of two or three weeks annually, without requiring extra time to dispose of it. A single crate of berries, occupying but a few square feet of room on the wagon, and adding comparatively little weight to the load, will sell quickly along with the other products, and increase the day's sales by \$3 or \$4. This, however, is true also of raspberries, blackberries, and all other small fruits. Indeed, I think the grower for local market can generally combine vegetable gardening and small fruit growing to the best advantage.

During the entire strawberry season we usually find the city markets abundantly supplied with this fruit—such as it is—poor, coated with dust, jammed, ill-looking, and anything but inviting to people who are used to getting them fresh from the garden, in all their prime and glory. I have never been tempted to buy the average fruit as I saw it on the market stands of the cities. It averages poor, and so, usually and deservedly, does the price, which the grower realizes for them.

On the other hand, really first-class fruit—large, even, fresh, packed neatly in attractive and clean packages—is rare, and always in good demand at paying prices. The premium here is on superiority. There is no overproduction of fine berries, and I do not think there ever will be. Large, well-colored, perfect

berries have always been scarce, always commanded good prices, and consequently always proved profitable to the producer, and to the dealer as well. Like the onion among vegetables, so the strawberry among fruits is the great money crop for the skillful grower, but a source of annoyance, disappointment, and even loss to the shiftless manager.

The chief aim of the grower must be directed towards growing fine berries, picking them when just right, and bringing them to market in best possible shape. Mr. John Burdett who lives seventeen miles from Buffalo, and is known to fruit growers as the originator of the "Long John" strawberry, a particularly prolific sort, equaling the Wilson in its best characteristics, picks his berries very early in the morning (from 3 to 7 A. M.), grades and arranges them, all of uniform size and appearance in each package, upon fancy plates or in fancy baskets; takes his morning's product to Buffalo, on train at 8 A. M., and delivers this fancy article at fancy fruit stores an hour later—only a few hours after they came from the patch—and always receives 25 or 30 cents a quart for them. As he is the only one furnishing this class of goods, and only in limited quantities at that, he virtually controls the market, and gets his own price for his fancy article.

SOIL.—In the selection of soil for strawberries I would give a deep, well-drained clay loam the preference, although a good crop can be grown on any soil adapted for the production of a good crop of corn. The lay and composition of the land has a great influence upon the season of ripening. Among the chief factors favoring earliness of crop are sandy composition of soil, porous subsoil, south-eastern exposure, and selection of early varieties; while the following conditions, viz., muck or clay soil, clay subsoil, north or north-western exposure, heavy mulch left on until late in spring, and selection of late varieties, tend to make the crop a very late one. The market gardener who has a variety of soils and situations may make such selections and combinations which suit his particular purpose. By proper selection of conditions, the berry season can be greatly lengthened, or the bulk of crop ripened in just such season as the market may be expected to be most favorable.

Old sod should be avoided, as it is usually infested with white grubs (the larvæ of the May beetle), and with other insect enemies. Nothing will fit a piece of ground so nicely for planting to strawberries, as cropping for a year or two with onions, beets, carrots, or other close-planted vegetables, which need high manuring and thorough cultivation, and leave the land in a high state of fertility, and reasonably free from weeds.

MANURING.—Really fine strawberries can only be grown on fertile soil, and poor ones are hardly worth growing. Too much manure cannot well be applied, although an overdose is not

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necessary. Well decomposed stable manure is always a reliable fertilizer, provided it is free from weed seeds, and if we only have enough of such, we have no reason to look for anything else. Under no circumstances use manure liable to befoul the land with weeds, as the latter are the great curse of the strawberry grower. I believe it is easier to grow a good crop of onions on weedy land (although not an enjoyable task) than to keep a strawberry patch clean when once well stocked with weeds. The latter invariably interfere very seriously with the strawberry crop.

On fairly good soil I have had most excellent success with concentrated commercial fertilizers. They have the advantage of being free from weed seeds, and may be used alone, or in combination with smaller quantities of stable compost. They also lessen the dangers from fungus diseases, and make a firmer and better berry than the stable manure alone.

Potash fertilizers are of especial benefit to all fruit crops, and I would recommend, as a good, safe ration for strawberries on most soils, 400 pounds of muriate of potash and from 600 to 1000 pounds of bone-meal per acre. Wood ashes, especially if unleached, are also a most excellent manure for strawberries, being rich in the mineral plant foods, particularly in potash—the one substance most urgently needed.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.—The roots of strawberries go down deeply into the ground without spreading a great deal. Consequently the soil must be loosened up deeply. Stable manure, if applied, is to be plowed in. The use of a good sub-soil plow, after the common plow, is always advisable, and time spent in cross-plowing and in thorough harrowing is always well employed. If ashes and concentrated fertilizers are used, they should be put on the surface after plowing, and then thoroughly mixed with the soil by means of a Disk harrow, cultivator, or hoe. If soil is lumpy, roller or Meeker harrow may be brought into use. In short, no means should be neglected by which the desired mellowness and smooth surface of the soil can be secured. The next thing is to mark out furrows four feet apart, either with a corn-marker or a one-horse plow, taking particular pains to run them straight and even.

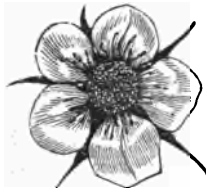
QUALITY OF PLANTS.—Early fall, or even summer, is the time usually selected for planting strawberries in the southern states. At the north we oftener prefer to plant in spring, unless we have a chance to get good plants—the first runners made after the fruiting season—not later than August. If these plants are “pot grown,” or taken up with a clump of soil, they may be expected to do all the better.

The quality of the plants influences the result, both immediate and permanent, very materially. I believe in “pedigree” with strawberry plants as well as with vegetable seeds, or with

live-stock. If the first, most vigorous runners from young vigorous plants that have not yet been weakened by fruiting, are used, and this method of propagation is continued for some time, the strain will be improved, and stock of such strain is likely to give better results than the later, and less vigorous runners taken from old plants, debilitated by years of fruit production. The grower also has to take in consideration that there are sorts with perfect flowers, and others with imperfect flowers. The former possess both male and female organs of reproduction, and are called hermaphrodite or bi-sexual, sometimes (although erroneously) staminate



Pot Grown Plant.



Perfect Strawberry Blossom.

sorts, and will produce fruit, even if a single plant or variety is standing all by itself. The imperfect or pistillate varieties have a perfect pistil (female organ), but no stamens, or these but imperfectly developed. Consequently they cannot be depended upon to produce fruit, at least not in profusion and perfection, unless planted in proximity to varieties that have perfect stamens (male organs) and can furnish pollen (the principle of fecundation) to the pollenless pistillate sorts. Purely staminate plants—those having no pistils and always barren—are more rarely met with. In buying and setting plants these facts must be kept in mind, and whenever imperfect varieties, which usually are the most fruitful, when pollen is furnished by others, are planted, a row or two of some suitable and perfect sort should always be alternated with every four or five rows of the pistillates. I might make this statement still stronger by saying that lack of proper pollen is the chief cause of barrenness, or of improper development of seed or fruit, in many plants. Putting many varieties in close proximity usually seems to prove beneficial to all, with strawberries as well as with many other bush and tree fruits.



Pistillate Blossom.

SELECTION OF VARIETIES.—No “best” variety can be named. One that is doing elegantly in one locality often turns out to be an utter failure when transferred to another location. Each sort seems to have a combination of soil, climate and treatment that suits its nature best, or special requirements of its own. The grower must try to learn what sort or sorts are best adapted to his surroundings. Those giving the best results in one’s nearest

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neighborhood are usually the ones to plant and experiment with. The highly-lauded, expensive novelties had better be touched very lightly, and in a cautious, experimental way only.

PLANTING.—Where, in accordance with these suggestions, really good plants are procured from a grower near-by, success



Bunch of Strawberry Plants.

will be rendered much more certain from the very start, than where one has to depend on plants purchased from a distance. Reliable nurserymen send out a pretty fair lot, such for instance as shown in annexed illustration; and if these are well packed, and suffer no unusual delay in transportation, they will do well enough. Often such plants, when received by express, are not exactly what we would wish them to be. Immediately after arrival place them in a damp, cool place, (cellar or the like), and keep their roots covered with moist sand until wanted for setting out.

When this time has come,

and the field is all in readiness, trim off about one-third of the roots with a slanting cut, using a sharp knife, and remove all partly-decayed leaves; next dip the roots in water, and let a boy scatter the plants along the rows, one plant to every twelve or fifteen inches, and follow (or let your man follow) on hands and knees, taking up each plant in its turn, spreading the roots carefully, and plant it in the bottom of the furrow, on a little mound of soil, filling in mellow earth around it, so the crown will be the veriest trifle below the surface of the ground, but not covered. This is done because the crown-growth has an upward tendency, and the plants gradually rise higher out of the ground as the seasons go by. The annexed illustration shows a fine sample plant, well planted. As always in setting plants or other growths, the most important point, and the one making success reasonably sure in any case, is the thorough firming of the soil around the roots,



A Good Plant Well Planted.

not merely around the crown. It need hardly be said, that the soil, when moist, but yet crumbly, is in exactly the right condition for the operation of setting plants. Where only shallow marks, no deep furrows are made to indicate the rows, the planting may be facilitated by the use of a gardener's trowel, or one of the improved dibbers illustrated on page 43.

TREATMENT AFTER PLANTING.—Now comes the tug-of-war. Weed growth must be prevented all through the season, and to do this the cultivator should be started soon after planting, and used at short intervals pretty much during the entire season. Weeds appearing in the rows are to be pulled up by hand, or cut out with the hoe.

Spring-set plants should not be allowed to fruit, as this would be a great strain on them so soon after the check received by the rough treatment of transplanting. The little labor required in picking off every fruit-stalk as soon as noticed, and the exercise of a little patience on the part of the grower, will always be well repaid in increase of crop the year following. The whole vital force of the plant is thus thrown into vigorous growth of the plant itself, and the production of runners.

The amateur frequently, and the market grower rarely, practices what is known as the "stool" or hill method, which consists in growing large individual plants or "stools," and preventing the full development and rooting of runners by their early and careful removal. This method requires much attention, but gives fine plants, and very large and perfect fruit, but not so much of it as can be produced by the so-called matted-row system. This is the one commonly practiced by market growers, and the more popular everywhere. The runners are allowed to strike root on a strip from one to two feet wide. As the season advances the cultivator has to be gradually narrowed down until, at last, we have a strip of cultivated ground only about two feet in width. The cultivator should also be run in one and the same direction, not back and forth between each two rows, so that the runners will not be disturbed or torn out more than necessary.

This frequent stirring of the soil by means of hoe and cultivator serves another good purpose, and performs a most important office. The strawberry succeeds best when the soil is moist. In rare cases only can irrigation be made use of. Usually we have to depend on moisture already stored up in the soil, and supplied by rains. The underground-reservoir is always well filled during winter, and all we have to do during the growing season is to prevent waste by over-rapid evaporation. Of the means at our command to retard this evaporation, mulching with a few inches of mellow soil is probably the simplest and most inexpensive, and, I believe, also the most efficient. We

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might accomplish this same object by mulching with litter—straw, hay, saw-dust, tan-bark, etc.—but it always involves more expense and is usually less convenient. It also affords undesirable hiding places for vermin, prevents the needed airing of the soil, and favors the propagation of fungi. Altogether, the loose soil mulch, which is the result of good tillage, is usually the most satisfactory. A clean straw or hay mulch, however, comes very acceptable during the picking season. It then protects the berries from contact with the soil, and keeps them bright and clean.

WINTER PROTECTION.—Strawberry plants are quite hardy, yet liable to heave out by the freezes and thaws of winter, and for this reason should be given a winter overcoat. Without protection of some kind, say by a mulch of litter or snow, best results ought not to be expected, as great loss of plants, and damage to fruit buds and roots will be unavoidable. If you have a nice strawberry bed, whatever you may do with it, don't neglect to provide a winter mulch. It is not enough to apply fine compost to the patch in the fall. Coarse, strawy manure will do very well, and should be put on all over the ground (not only over the rows) as soon as the ground is frozen hard enough to hold a wagon. Evergreen boughs are often quite serviceable; but nothing in the shape of winter mulch can be superior to salt or marsh hay. This is to be had quite cheaply in many localities. Evenly spread over the ground it will afford a perfect protection, and the grower may feel at ease concerning his strawberry bed when thus covered, in the most trying kind of winter weather.

GATHERING THE FRUIT.—At the approach of spring the winter mulch should be removed, or rolled aside until the patch can be given a thorough stirring up with cultivator and hoe. Whatever weeds start up, are pulled up by hand or killed with the hoe. Afterwards the clean mulch may be put carefully around the plants on each side of the rows to keep the fruit clean.

The berries, when ripe, are picked in clean quart baskets, level full, and if for market, only nice, clean, sound, good-sized and well-colored berries are wanted in the baskets. Leave the imperfect fruit on the vines, or throw them away. Neither is there any place in the baskets for leaves and rubbish. Strawberries are perishable, and do not improve in any respect after being taken off the vines. The sooner they are used or disposed of, the better.

STRAWBERRIES IN HOME GARDEN.—Farmers and townspeople who grow only their own home supply, usually plant a little patch in their garden, and here the plants are set quite close, perhaps fifteen inches each way, and all tended with the hand hoe. Here the ground is almost always very rich, and a

large crop can be grown on a small area. In all other ways the plants should be treated as already directed for general culture. This plan, although well enough suited to the narrow limits of the average village garden, is not the one which I would advise the farmer to adopt. The size of his kitchen garden is (or should be) in correspondence with the greater opportunities in regard to area, manure supply, and available labor which the farm affords, and with the greater demands of the farmer's large household for vegetables and fruits. One acre—rather more than less—is just about the proper area, and it should be arranged somewhat similar as shown in the diagrams on pages 20 and 22. This will give him the largest possible results with the least possible demands for hand labor. By all means let the farmer plant his strawberries, and his other small fruits in same plot also, in long rows, as advised for the market grower, and cultivate by horse power, early, often, and thoroughly, to save hand labor.

ROTATION.—Many growers, especially market gardeners, take off only a single crop, plow up the patch after the fruiting season, and plant it to potatoes, turnips, celery, or other crops. But if to be kept for another year, the matted rows after fruiting should be narrowed down again, using a one-horse plow, a sharp-cutting cultivator, or wheel-hoe, and left not over 6 inches in width. New runners are now allowed to occupy the whole space of the original matted row, thus renewing the plantation. Guard against weeds. I do not believe in fruiting a patch more than two years, or three at most, and new beds should be planted every other year to take the place of the old ones.

INSECTS AND DISEASES.—The larvæ of the sawfly is sometimes and in some sections very destructive to the foliage. For a remedy try a solution of hellebore, one ounce to two gallons of water, and sprinkle or spray it on the plants.

The strawberry leaf-roller is another destructive foe, the larvæ of a moth which is two-brooded. The presence of this worm is easily detected by the rolled-up leaves. The simplest remedy is to mow the field after fruiting, and when the stuff is dry enough, set fire to it.

For the crown-borer, troublesome in the west and far north, and the strawberry root-borer, a small caterpillar, I know no remedy except plowing up the whole patch and starting a new plantation elsewhere.

The white grub has been already mentioned. The larvæ of the goldsmith beetle resembles it in appearance and life habits, and should be managed in the same way.

The tarnished plant-bug, and the dusky plant-bug are very unwelcome visitors to many strawberry plantations, and little can be done to keep them off. Spraying with the kerosene emulsion, or solution of buhach may do some good.

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These and all other insect foes can most easily be kept in check by a frequent renewal of the plantations (wide crop rotation), and by mowing and burning the foliage after fruiting. This treatment will also tend to prevent the strawberry diseases, such as scald, rust, etc.

VARIETIES.

The following is a list of the leading sorts :

1. PERFECT FLOWERING.

Atlantic.
Belmont.
Bidwell.
Captain Jack.
Chas. Downing.
Cumberland Triumph.
Kentucky.
May King.
Miner's (Prolific).
Neunan's (Prolific).
Old Ironclad (or Phelp's Seedling).
Parry.
Prince of Berries.
Sharpless.
Wilson (Albany).

2. IMPERFECT FLOWERING.

Must have one or more of the preceding list planted with them.

Bubach (No. 5).
Champion (or Windsor Chief).
Crescent.
Jewell.
Jersey Queen.
Manchester.
Warfield No. 2.

The most popular and most reliable of the list are the following :

Chas. Downing.
May King.
Neunan's Prolific. (For the South).
Parry.
Sharpless.
Wilson.
Bubach.
Crescent.
Manchester.
Warfield No. 2.

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